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THE

Fool of Quality;

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF

HENRY Earl of MORELAND.

By Mr BROOKE.

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A NEW EDITION,

GREATLY ALTERED AND IMPROVED.

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FOOL of QUALITY;

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CHAP. XVII.

The HISTORY of a REPROBATE.

I KNOW not, Gentlemen, ſaid he, who my parents were. I was found, when an infant, wrapped in rags on a cobler's bulk, in Weſtminſter. The pariſh-officers ſent me to the poor-houſe; and when I was capable of inſtruction, they ſent me to the charity-ſchool. When I had learned to read and write, I was bound, for a ſervant, to Mr Skinner, a neighbouring attorney. My miſtreſs grew fond of me; ſhe was a very holy woman; ſhe

taught me my prayers and catechiſm, and made me read to her every night, and repeat chapters and pſalms, till I had nearly got half the Bible by rote.

As my maſter uſed to ſend me on many errands and meſſages, and to entruſt me with little matters of money on ſuch occaſions, on finding me always punctual and honeſt to him, he began to love me almoſt as much as my good miſtreſs did.

But now came on my firſt falling away from all goodneſs. I was about twelve years old, when, in a curſed hour, my maſter ſent me to a diſtant part of the town, with a bill to pay ſome money, and bring to him back the change. The change amounted to about four pounds in glittering ſilver. It appeared a mint of money. I never had been in poſſeſſion of ſo large a heap; and I ſighed, and ſaid to myſelf, How bleſſed muſt they be who are become the rich owners of ſo much money! Then ſome one ſeemed to whiſper me, that I was the owner; and again ſome one ſeemed to whiſper me, that I was not the owner. Then I would go forward toward my maſter; and again I would ſtop and go aſide. Then I would thruſt my hand into my pocket, and feel the greatneſs of my treaſure, then turn to the wall, and lay the brightneſs of it before my eyes. Then I would run a piece off, as hurried away by the force of the temptation; and

again

gain I would delay, and ſtop, and turn, and ſtrive to force myſelf homeward. Till, what with doubting and delaying, and ſtruggling off and on, and going backward and forward, I conſidered, that if I went home, I ſhould now get nothing but blame and beating; and ſo I took a head, and ran into the country as faſt as my feet could carry me.

As I ran myſelf out of breath, from time to time, I would look back and look back, and run on and run on, in the thought that my maſter, or ſome one from him, was at my heels. But often ſince, I have reflected, and was perſuaded in my mind, that my kind maſter and miſtreſs had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of me, but rather inquired and ſorrowed after me, as being murdered or kidnapped from them; and this alſo was, at times, a great grief of heart to me.

When I was quite tired and jaded, and night came on, I turned up to a ſorry kind of an inn, or rather alehouſe, which I happened to be near. But, as I feared every thing, I had the cunning to conceal my treaſure, and taking a penny from my pocket, I begged the woman of the houſe, for that and charity's ſake to give me a little bread and milk, and ſome hole to lie in.

Having finiſhed my ſupper, I was ſhewn to a kind of hovel under the ſtairs, where, throwing myſelf on ſome ſtraw with a piece of a

blanket over me, I fell faſt as a rock. Awakening however, about midnight, or ſomewhat after, and ſeeing all dark about me, and no creature near hand; I began to tremble greatly; and then I wiſhed to ſay my prayers, but I did not dare to pray; and ſo I lay ſweating and trembling, and trembling and ſweating, till the dawning of the day brought ſome relief to my ſpirits.

Having breakfaſted at the coſt of a ſecond penny, I ſet out, though not with my former ſpeed; for reflecting that I had not my livery on, but a ſmall frock-coat, I was under the leſs fear of being known. However, I puſhed on as well as I was able, wanting ſtill to get as far from danger as poſſible. And indeed I hoped, by going on ſtill farther and farther, to get away from my own fears and from my own conſcience.

O Gentlemen! what miſery did I not endure at that ſeaſon? The truſt I had in my treaſure began now to abate, the dread of loſing it alſo brought new troubles upon me; peace was baniſhed from within me; and without there was no place whereto I might fly for reſt.

On the fifth morning of my travels, having expended what halfpence and ſmall ſilver I had; I took out half a crown, and offered it to the man of the houſe, deſiring him to return what was over the reckoning. As he took it, he gave me a look that I thought went through me,

me, and continuing to ſtare me in the face, he ſhamed me ſo, that I was conſtrained to turn aſide. He gave me the change, however, and I ſet forward on my journey, all trembling, and apprehending I knew not what.

I had not gone above a mile, when, meeting a dirty road, I turned over a ſtile that led to a path through the fields. Here I walked on a little way, when, turning, I ſaw my landlord making long ſtrides after me; whereupon my heart beat, and my knees grew ſo weak under me, that I ſtood as ſtill as a ſtone.

He came quickly up with me, and ſeizing me by the neck, he caſt me on my back. Ha! you young rogue, ſays he, let us ſee what money you have got. Then, diving into my pockets, he pulled out the whole ſtock in which I truſted for happineſs. O, you little dog of a villain, from whom have you ſtolen all this treaſure? But I muſt go and return it to the right owner. O, good Sir, good Sir, I roared out, will you not leave me a little? ever ſo little, dear Sir, to keep me from ſtarving? But he was deaf to my cries and prayers, and away he went.

Hope, the laſt comfort of the miſerable, now forſook me. I curſed, at my heart, the day on which I was born; and I lay a long time, as one who had no uſe for limbs, or any farther way to travel upon earth. At length I broke out into ſhouts and a great guſh of tears,

and

and having got ſome eaſe by venting my ſorrows, I roſe, by a kind of inſtinct, and went on I knew not whither.

Growing hungry after noon, I would willingly have begged the charity of paſſengers; but this I did not dare to do, for fear they ſhould aſk me whence I came, and who I was, and whereto I was going; queſtions to which I could give no very honeſt anſwer. So I bore my hunger as well as I could, till coming at night to a hovel where a farmer kept his pigs, I made way for myſelf among them, and ſlept in the ſtraw till morning.

The day following, as I paſſed ſlowly and half famiſhed through a ſmall village, my eye catched at a penny loaf that lay on a little ſhop-window which jutted into the ſtreet. I looked here and there, and peered into the ſhop, and was juſt going to ſeize the ready and tempting ſpoil; when ſomething whiſpered at my heart, Do not touch it for your life, ſtarve, ſtarve rather than offer to ſteal any more; and ſo I tore myſelf away, and running as faſt as I could, for fear of turning back, I at laſt got clear off from the reach of this temptation.

When I had travelled ſomething farther, I got into an incloſed country, where there were hedges on every ſide, with plenty of haws and bramble-berries on every buſh. And here I filled my belly with berries to ſerve me for dinner;

dinner; and I ſtuffed my pockets with haws againſt I ſhould want. Upon this I grew wonderful glad that I had not taken the loaf; and peace again began to come upon my mind; and, about night-fall, having reached a copſe on one ſide of the road, I crept like a hare, under the ſhelter of the buſhes; I then ſupped upon my haws, after which I kneeled down, and half ventured at a prayer to God; and gathering up in my form, I ſlept happily till morning.

Having lived thus for ſome days, I came into an open country, where there was ſcarce any path, nor any haw or berry within many a mile. I now began to grow ſick and faint with hunger; and again my ſickneſs went off, and I became ſo greedy and ravenous, that I was ready to eat my own fleſh from the bones. Soon after, I ſpied, at a diſtance, a confuſed heap of ſomething at the root of a great tree that grew in the open fields. I made up to it in expectation of I knew not what; and found an old beggar-man faſt aſleep in his patched cloak, with a bundle of ſomewhat lying beſide him.

Inſtantly I opened his little baggage, when to my inexpreſſible tranſport, a large luncheon of brown bread, with ſome halfpence, ſtruck my eyes. I did not heſitate a moment about ſeizing the bread; for I could no more withſtand the cravings of my appetite at the time, than

than I could withſtand a torrent ruſhing down a hill. Having appeaſed my ſtomach, I began to demur about what I ſhould do with the remainder of the bread, and felt a motion or two inclining me to leave it behind me. But, "no, "ſaid I to myſelf; this is all the bread that I "have, or may ever have during life, and I "know not where to get a bit in the whole "world; beſide, I do this man no harm in "taking it away, ſince I leave him money e-"nough wherewith to buy more." So I put the bread in my pocket, and went on my way, leaving behind me about four or five pence in the wrapper.

I had not gone far, however, before I ſaid to myſelf again, "This man is a beggar by "trade, and gets halfpence from every paſſen-"ger that goes the road. But alas, no one "living has any pity upon me; and ſo to ſtarve "alive, or take the money, is all the que-"ſtion." So ſaying, or ſo thinking, I went back on tiptoes, and ſtooping and ſeizing my prey, I flew away like lightning.

As ſoon as I had got out of the reach and ſight of the poor man, the firſt motion I felt was the joy of having ſuch a prize; but I had not gone far till this joy was much abated, my ſighs began to heave, and my tears to flow apace.

That night, I took up my lodging in a waſte hut that lay a little way off the road. But though,

ough, as I thought, I had plenty of bread, nd money enough about me; yet I found my- lf exceeding heavy, and I was not able to ray, as I did the foregoing nights.

During all this time, I neither knew where was, nor whereto I was going, nor any thing ore of my travels than that I came from Lon- on. When I had ſpent to my laſt penny, and as walking, ſlow and melancholy, on a by- ath that led through ſome woody lawns, I eard the voice of merriment, and, quickly ter, perceived a group of gypſies that came om behind ſome trees.

As I ſaw that I could not eſcape them, I ga- hered courage, and went forward, when, co- ning up, they ſtopped and eyed me with much ttention, and made a ring about me. Where re you going, my child? ſays a man with a road girdle and a very formidable beard. In- eed, Sir, ſaid I, I cannot tell. And where id you come from then? From London, Sir, o pleaſe you. From London, Child? why, hat is a very great way off. And pray what hade you leave London? To get away from ny maſter. But I hope you did not come a- ay empty, you brought ſomething from him, id not you? Some little matter, good Sir, ut I was robbed of it on the way. Hereupon, his venerable regent ſmiled, and, turning to is dependents, As far as I ſee, ſaid he, this hap will anſwer our purpoſe to a hair.

Here

Here one of the females aſked if I was hu
gry; and on my anſwer in the affirmati
they all invited me with a jovial air to dinn
We then turned a diſtance off from the pa
wherein we had met, and gradually deſcend
into one of the pleaſanteſt ſpots in the worl
It was a dell ſurrounded with hills, ſome
which were ſlanting, ſome headlong and i
pending, and all covered or ſpotted with grou
of trees, of different heights, ſorts, and colou
through which there deſcended a gurging
vulet, which, having rolled over ſtones a
pebbles, grew ſilent in a ſmall lake, that
flected the circling objects from the hills
round.

Immediately nature's carpet was cover
with a large cloth of fine damaſked lin
The baggage was taken from the ſhoulders
the bearers; and before I well could obſer
what they were about, there was ſpread, a
art-magic, before my eyes, the moſt varie
and ſumptuous banquet I had ever beh
Down inſtantly ſunk the gueſts; ſome ſittin
like the Turks, croſs-legged; while others l
led, like the Romans, beſide each other.

As they had travelled far that day, they
eat in ſilence; and, in a ſhort ſpace, the bu
den of the luggage-carriers was pretty mu
lightened. In the mean time, ſome aroſe, a
unladed two aſſes of the creels which they c
ried. The cloth then was quickly emptied

he cold fowls and baked meats, with the oins of beef and mutton; and leather-jacks, hat contained plenty of the beſt wines and o-her liquors, were ſet before us. Theſe, again, were decanted into clean japanned pitchers; and a japanned cup, of equal meaſure, was gi-ven into every hand.

Then began mirth and jollity to flow round with the cups; never did I ſee ſo pleaſant, ſo gleeful a company. Joke and banter, without offence, were bandied from every ſide; and burſts of laughter were echoed from the an-ſwering hills.

As ſoon as I was warmed, and my heart open-ed by what I drank, they all expreſſed a liking and kindneſs for me, and requeſted that I would tell them my ſtory, without diſguiſe. Accord-ingly I made an ingenious confeſſion of all the matters related. But, inſtead of meeting thoſe reproofs which I expected for my wickedneſs, they jointly began to ridicule my ſcruples, and put to ſhame the little ſhame that I had of my evil-deeds.

My child, ſaid their ancient governor, when you have been a ſufficient time with us, you will then learn what it is to be wiſe and to be happy. You will then know that religion is nothing but hypocriſy or faſhion. There are thouſands and ten thouſands of religions upon earth, all contrary, and fighting the one againſt the other. People pretend to fear God,

when it is the fear of the laws alone that is before their eyes. God is not to be feared, but to be loved, my ſon, for he is a very gracious and a bountiful God. He gave the heavens, in common, to the birds of the air. He gave the ſeas, and rivers alſo, in common to the fiſhes. And he gave this whole earth in common to mankind. But great people, and people of power, have ſeized it all to themſelves, and they have made to themſelves poſſeſſions and properties by fences and incloſures; and they have again incloſed theſe incloſures, by laws of their own making, whereby the poor are to be puniſhed, when they attempt to reclaim any part of the natural rights with which God had gifted them. But when the poor, without fear of the laws, can gain any thing from the rich and the mighty, who have robbed them of their rights, they may ſurely do it with a ſafe and an honeſt conſcience. And now know, my child, that you are come among thoſe who, of all people, can beſt defend you and make you happy. We are of that ſort of the poor who are above the rich and the mighty, by being above the laws; for they can frame no laws which are of any more force to us than the web of a ſpider.

So ſpoke this formidable ſage; and indeed Gentlemen, however ſtrange it may ſeem, I ſaw the latter part of his aſſertion fully verified by practice. I continued among this very mi-

gul

ar and wonderful people, near the ſpace of
ee years; during which time they initiated
into all the arts and myſteries of their ma-
old iniquities. No fetters could hold them;
priſons could contain them; no bolts or
ks could ſecure the treaſure of the wealthy
m them. By the means of ſpells or certain
ours, as it were by inchantment, all beaſts
came ſubject to them; the wildeſt horſe
ould ſtand for them; the fierceſt maſtiffs did
t dare to bay or growl at them; ſo that all
eaching grounds, yards, and gardens, were
open to their invaſion as the high way. They
ſumed all ſhapes, and almoſt all ſizes. They
came viſible and inviſible, known or un-
own at pleaſure; for every different dreſs
ey had a different countenance and ſet of
atures; ſo that their daily intimates could
t know them, except by appointed words or
kens. And thus, without violence or appa-
nt fraud, without buſtle, indictment, or ac-
ſation on any ſide, they over-ruled the go-
rnment, and held, as it were, the purſes of
e whole nation in their hands.

You will wonder, Gentlemen, by what po-
y theſe people could maintain their influence
d depredations, undetected, throughout the
ngdom. I will account for this matter as
early, and as briefly as I can.

Though they never appeared by day, except
gle, or in ſmall parties of ten or fifteen

at moſt, yet they kept their ſtate entire, by quick and conſtant intelligence. Beſide, the prince, or principal potentate, who was the perſon that firſt accoſted me, they had a deputy governor for every ſhire; and, at convenient diſtances, houſes of common reſort for the fraternity. Here their victuals were dreſſed and their proviſions laid in; and here also were depoſited the ſpoils of the public, which, when converted into money, was locked in a ſtrong box, one tenth for the uſe of the ſociety on any emergence, and the other nine for the benefit of the ſpoilers, in proportion to their reſpective ranks and merits.

Before we roſe from our late-mentioned feſtival, an ancient female fortune-teller chucked me under the chin, and ſaid, Do you know, my dear, where this ſame kind landlord lives, who robbed you of your money? All I know, ſaid I, is, that he lives in a little town, at the ſign of a white croſs, and near to a great windmill. What, cried one of the men, my old boſt Jerry Cruff? He hates that any except himſelf ſhould proſper by their ingenuity. I owe that fellow a fling, cried another, for once attempting to circumvent me in his own houſe. Well, my lad, ſays Geoffry the old governor, his houſe lies directly in the way of our circuit; and, for your encouragement, I promiſe you that he ſhall refund you every penny of the money he took from you.

The

The luggage being now up, we went back in the field path by which I came; and coming to a great road, we divided into ſmall parties, who were appointed to meet at the rendezvous, where we ſupped merrily, and ſlept ſoundly for that night.

We ſet out, the next morning, by dawn of day, and entering ſoon after upon a common, we ſaw a parcel of horſes feeding without a keeper. Immediately three of the likelieſt were taken from the reſt. Out came ſciſſars, and other implements, with phials of colouring eſſences, and to work went many hands, when, in leſs than five minutes, had the owners come up, they could not have found a ſingle mark of their own property upon them. And indeed I have frequently known ſome of thoſe my ingenious brotherhood, ſo very audacious as to ſell, in public market, the cattle which they had ſtolen, to the very perſons from whom they were taken.

As theſe people were never unprovided of their conveniencies, the horſes were quickly bridled and diſpatched, by ſeveral emiſſaries, ſeveral ways, to ſummon the neighbouring brotherhood, on the third night, to meet near the white croſs with their appointed apparatus.

Accordingly, on the evening of the night required, we arrived on a little hill that ſtood oppoſite to the houſe of my conſcientious landlord; and, ſoon after, we were joined by

ſeveral parties, from ſeveral ſides, amountin
to about a hundred and twenty perſons, wi
parcels of I knew not what upon aſſes, &c.

The packs were quickly opened, and fro
thence were produced black and flame-colou
ed gowns, flambeaux, hoofs, and horns, a
vizards of horrid aſpect and terrific dime
ſion. In a hurry, we were all fitted with o
reſpective dreſſes and characters. A la
paſteboard coffin was covered with a whi
ſheet, and exalted upon the ſhoulders of fo
fiery devils; and, as night began to fall d
and heavy upon us, a light was ſtruck,
flams were lighted, one was put into eve
right hand; ſpeaking-trumpets, with other
ſtruments of heart-ſinking ſounds, were pu
many a mouth, and we directly ſet out on
diabolical proceſſion. Some roared like bu
others howled and bayed like dogs at a m
night moon, while others yelled articulatel
the caterwauling gibberiſh; in ſhort,
ſounds made ſuch a complication of hor
as no mortal ears could abide, nor mo
courage ſupport.

Mean while the town took the alarm,
began to be in commotion. Old and yo
quitted their h-ſes, and hurried hither
thither through the ſtreet. But as we ad
ced, they made backward; and running,
climbi g, or ſcrambling up the hill, they
thered all in a body before the wind-mill.

e interim, we pushed forward, and entered e inn, where neither cat nor dog, nor living creature was left, save Goodman Gruff, who ay impotent of the gout, in an upper chamber.

While moſt of the company ſtaid routing and ſearching the houſe below, Signior Geoffry led a few of us up ſtairs. He repreſented the perſon of Lucifer, whoſe name was impreſſed in flaming characters on his cap. On entering the room where landlord Gruff lay, Hark ye, Jerry, ſays Lucifer, you ſneaking thief, you mean petty-larceny villain! how came you to rob a child, the other day, of the money which he gained under my influence and encouragement? I have a mind, you ſcoundrel, to ſtrike you out of my liſt of innkeepers. O, my good Lord Lucifer, cries Gruff, with a trembling voice, in my conſcience, now, I did not think that any kind of robbery would be an offence to your honour. You lie, you raſcal, you lie, cries Lucifer, the devil is a gentleman, he loves thoſe who rob the great, who have robbed the little; but he hates your low-ſpirited ſcoundrels who rob the widow and the fatherleſs, and take from the little ones the little that they have. Why, pray, my Lord Lucifer, are you a Chriſtian? cries Gruff. A better one, raſcal, than you or any of your tribe; for though I tremble, yet I believe. And I tell thee, Jerry, that I will

will make this generation to tremble; but, as I think, the devil himself cannot bring them to believe.

During this confabulation, the whole house, drawers and all, was gutted as clean as a fowl for supper. So, without entering into any other habitation, away we marched, as in our former tremendous proceſſion; till, coming to ſome ſtanding water, we halted, and at a given word, we all together plunged our torches in the pool, and inſtant night fell upon all the world.

Thus, from day to day, and year to year, while I continued with this people, I was witneſs to a variety of ſleights, deceits, impoſtures, metamorphoſes, and depredations, without any inſtance of their being brought to condign puniſhment. One of them, however, within my time, was detected, taken, impriſoned, brought to the bar, tried, and brought in guilty; and yet found means to evade juſtice by the moſt marvellous piece of ſtratagem that ever was.

He was ſpied in the act of ſtealing a bay horſe. Freſh ſuit was made. He was ſeized, and loaded with irons in the dungeon of the county-gaol. On the day of trial the fact was proved by inconteſtable witneſſes; and the jury, without quitting the box, pronounced the fatal word *Guilty*. Have you any thing to ſay, cried the judge, why ſentence of death ſhould not be pronounced againſt you? I can truly affirm,

irm, exclaimed the culprit, that I am as clear the light of this matter; that the beaſt ich I took, then was, and, to this hour, is y own property; and that there muſt be me wonderful miſtake in this buſineſs; herefore, my Lord, as I am upon life and eath, I truſt that your charitable indulgence ill order this ſame horſe to be brought into court. The horſe accordingly was brought, nd the culprit continued; Now, my Lord, e pleaſed to order the witneſſes to ſay whe-er this be the ſame horſe that I ſtole or not? he ſame, the ſame, cried the witneſſes, by irtue of our oaths. Be ſo good then, my ord, to aſk them of what age this horſe was, the time that I ſtole him? By virtue of the ame oath, four years old, riſing five. Now, Lord, if you will continue your gracious dulgence, be pleaſed to order his mouth to examined by ſome people ſkilled in ſuch atters. This alſo was done by two or three keys of acknowledged judgment, who in-ntly cried out, Why, my Lord, this horſe quite paſſed mark of mouth.

Hereupon every perſon that was preſent ked aſtoniſhed, and ſilence was in court for ne minutes; till the culprit reſumed. There but one requeſt more with which I ſhall uble your Lordſhip, it is, that you would pleaſed to ſend and examine whether this e horſe be a horſe or mare. This laſtly,

was

was done, when the examiners cried out, A mare, my Lord, a mare, without any queſtion!

Here the ſurpriſe and amazement of the court was redoubled. The jury looked down abaſhed; the witneſſes ſlunk away in utter ſhame and confuſion; and his Lordſhip inſtantly ordered, that the priſoner ſhould be diſmiſſed without fees, and that the mare ſhould be reſtored to him as his proper goods.

Now, the whole myſtery of the affair was merely this, that ſome of the fraternity, the very night before the trial, had picked the lock of the ſtable, and in the place of the horſe had ſubſtituted this mare, which they found or formed to ſo perfect a reſemblance of him, that no eye could diſcern the ſmalleſt diſtinction.

During my ſojourn with theſe wretches, may it pleaſe your Honours, I found by dear experience, that between the birth and the grave, there are but two ſorts of happineſs of which man is capable. The one is, that of a "conſcience void of giving offence;" the other is, that of a "conſcience that cannot be offended." I was therefore perpetually miſerable, becauſe neither the one nor the other was my ſtate: for, on the one hand, I was conſcious that I gave daily offence to God and man; and, on the other hand, my conſcience was daily offended thereby. I was merry, indeed, though not happy, when in company, but

t ever dejected when left alone; ſo that ring my three years incorporation with this aternity, I never once lifted my heart in any peal to God, nor ventured to petition for y kind of favour from him.

Though theſe reprobates, as I have inti- ated, continued to perpetrate, and to glory, ith a merry and ſatisfied conſcience, in their ily iniquities; yet hitherto they had not pro- eeded to blood.

On the night wherein I left them, we ere overtaken, and cut ſhort of our intended eſt, by a ſudden and violent tempeſt of wind nd hail, whereupon we took ſhelter in a waſte arn.

When we had ſtruck a light, we ſet toge- her what ſtraw and combuſtibles we could nd in the houſe, and had juſt kindled a fire, hen one of the company came and whiſper- d that there was a man aſleep in the far cor- er. Hereupon they took the candle, and with oft and cautious ſteps, found a pedlar ſtretch- d along, with his head on a wiſp of ſtraw, nd his box cloſe beſide him. They immedi- tely lifted the box, and brought it away, in ilence, to the place where I was ſitting. On pening it, with as little noiſe as poſſible, they ound therein a large quantity of ſilks, linens, nd laces, with a rich variety of hardwares, nd at the bottom, a little padlocked chiſt, ull of Engliſh and Spaniſh pieces of gold;

in

in all likelihood the whole amount of the
hours of his life.

This was a prize not to be thrown
the ſtream. Immediately all was in a kin
underbreathing buſtle, and whiſpering co
motion. The gre[at] queſtion was, how to p
ſeſs themſelves of ſuch a prey with ſafe
their perſons. It was objected, that the
might waken, they were unluckily ſeen co
ing that way, and, it may be, entering
that houſe; the country might be alarm
and riſe upon them; they might be overtak
they might be ſeized in the very fact.

At length a bold villain propoſed dir
to cut his throat, and that then there cou
no witneſs to teſtify againſt them; but to
it was again objected, that the blood
would be the fearfulleſt and ſureſt of all
neſſes. Whereupon another propoſed to
cate or ſtrangle him, and bury his corp
the ſpot; to which ſcheme, though many
ſilent, yet no one expreſsly excepted.

During this deadly conſultation, not
ſtanding my long courſe of evil habit,
evil example, my blood curdled throug
my body, and fear, horror, and deteſt
roſe in my boſom. But when they went,
I ſuppoſed, to put the deed of death into
ſtant execution, I crouched and ſhrun
ward; and creeping out at the door, the
of being alſo ſeized and murdered, gave
ſtre

ngth to get on my feet; and feeling along the wall, I got away from the houſe, and de off I neither knew nor cared whither.

The tempeſt ſtill continued; the driving of clouds added to the natural horrors of ht; I could ſcarcely diſcern that I had a d under my foot. But though I could not my purſuers, I yet feared that their eyes re better than mine; and I ſtill turned and ened, to try if the foot of the murderer s behind me.

Having travelled all night as faſt and far as ould from the ſcene of my terrors, on the ng of the day I ſaw a large town before me, , for the firſt time of three years, I lifted my eyes, and inwardly bleſſed God for his rcy in my eſcape from ſo great a wicked- s. Thereupon I felt a pleaſure that I had er felt before; and I ſaid in my heart, If will once more be my God, I will be your e ſervant, and will never offend or tranſ- s any more.

I then walked on leiſurely; my fatigue went m me, and I ſeemed quite lightſome to my- . On entering the ſuburbs, I met a gentle- n taking his morning's walk out of town. opped and looked him wiſtfully in the face, ereupon he alſo ſtopped, and eyed me with ch attention. Who are you, my pretty lad? s he. An unhappy ſtranger, Sir, who wants rvice, or any means of earning a little

honeſt bread. And pray what ſervice can you do? Not much, Sir, I fear, but my good-will ſhall ſtrive hard to make up my lack of ability. Then, cried he, you ſhall be my ſervant. All the ſervants I ever had, promiſed every thing, but did little: I will now try what may be done by one who promiſes nothing. What is your name, my boy? David Doubtful, Sir, for that was my true name, though I had gone by ſeveral others. And what wages muſt I give you, David? Juſt as much, Sir, or as little as you ſhall pleaſe to think I deſerve.

Here he took me to a handſome houſe, where he kept a mercer's ſhop in Plymouth. His name was Felton; he had been a widower for ſome years, and had an only ſon, who was then at Weſtminſter-ſchool in London.

My maſter, at firſt, ſet me to the moſt ſervile and vile offices, ſuch as cleaning his and the ſervants ſhoes; ſweeping the ſtreet before his door, and carrying out the dirt of the houſe; but all this I did with willingneſs, and even with pleaſure, as ſome little matter of penance for my long courſe of evil-deeds.

On my ſeparating from my brethren in iniquity, as I have told you, I was the proprietor of one hundred and ſeventy odd pounds, which was locked up in the common cheſt, being my allotted dividend of the fruits of our knavery, for three ſucceſſive years; but in my preſent turn of mind, I would no more have

accepted

ccepted any part thereof, than I would have ken a bar of red-hot iron into my hand. I ad alſo in my pocket, a few crowns with ſome naller ſilver; but theſe I ſecretly diſtributed mong the poor, that no part, as it were, of A-han's accurſed thing might remain about me.

In about three weeks, my maſter again hanged the whole manner of my ſervice, and et me to bruſh his cloaths, dreſs his wigs, whet his knives, lay the cloth, and attend at able; but theſe were matters in which I was uite expert, as I had not yet forgotten my em-loyment with my firſt maſter.

In ſome time after, Mr Felton aſked me if I ould read? A little in the Bible, Sir, ſaid I. nd can you write too, David? If you pleaſe, will try, Sir. Why, David! this beats the and of my clerk; where in the world did you ome by all this learning! From a very good aſter to a very bad ſervant. But pray, Sir, o not enquire the particulars of my naughti-eſs; for, indeed, you could not deſire a ſeve-er monitor than my own conſcience is to me. Well, my child, ſaid the good man, I will not ut you to pain; and, ſo giving me a ſqueeze y the hand, he went out with a gliſtening ye.

From this time my maſter ſhewed an un-ommon reſpect and attention to me. He diſ-harged me from all the menial offices of his ouſehold; he gave me his burdens of ſilks

and other wares, to carry to his feveral cuſtomers; and he deſired me to take particular notice of the natures and values of what I carried.

On this encouragement, I became vaſtly more apprehenſive and aſſiduous than he looked for. I attended the ſhop cloſely, and took notice and private notes of all that was eſtimated or tranſacted therein. My maſter looked quite amazed, on aſking me ſome queſtions with reſpect to his affairs. His eldeſt apprentice, ſoon after, ſet up for himſelf. He then placed me behind the counter, over his younger apprentice, and in joint authority with the journeyman. And, ſoon after, he gave me the key of his till, and the truſt of all his treaſure. I now dined with him at the ſame table, and conſulted and converſed with him as his friend and companion. He frequently gave me pocket-money, which, he told me, he would not charge to the account of my wages. I walked with him every evening, went to church with him every Sunday, and read to him in the Bible every night. I was now wholly reconciled to my God, and felt him in my ſoul as a friend and benefactor. Pleaſure played about my heart, peace lay under my pillow; and my happineſs ſeemed as a ſhip that, after a long and deſperate voyage, was anchored in a calm and ſecure haven.

I had now been ſomething upward of a year

ear in the ſervice of Mr Felton, when one
ay I heard a buſtling noiſe in the ſtreet, and
w people running hither and thither acroſs
e window. I ſtepped to the door, and look-
g to the left, ſaw a great crowd about a cart,
herein were five criminals going to execu-
on. I ſtaid till they came juſt oppoſite to me,
hen, to my utter aſtoniſhment and terror, I
w five of my old acquaintance, and, in the
ont of them, the bloody villain who had pro-
ofed cutting the throat of the unfortunate ped-
r. Inſtantly I turned all pale as my ſhirt, and
reading that they would know and claim ac-
uaintance with me, I ſhrunk in, and running
ackward, threw myſelf half fainting into a
hair.

I now reflected, that it was happy for me no
ne was in the ſhop to take notice of my con-
ſion; and endeavouring to aſſume ſome cou-
ge, on the entrance of our journeyman, I
ut on the moſt unconcerned appearance that
could.

Mr Felton happened to dine abroad that
ay, and did not return till the cloth was laid
r ſupper. He took his chair at table, and de-
red me to ſit beſide him. David, ſaid he, is
not wonderful that people ſhould continue
incredulous, notwithſtanding the frequent
d daily proofs of an all-ſeeing and an all de-
cting Providence? If a ſparrow falls not to
e ground without the notice of our God,

how much more will he take account of the life of him whom he formed in his own image! The villain truſts to hide his villainy, and dares to affirm (with the firſt murderer) in the face of God and of man, "I know not where "is my brother." But blood has a voice, a crying voice, David; it cries aloud to heaven, from the very bowels of the earth. No depth can cover it, no darkneſs can conceal it, for the light that ſhineth in darkneſs will bring it forth to the day.

About twelve months ago, a pedlar was murdered in a waſte houſe, called Fielding's barn. The murderers were of the people whom they call *Gipſies*, the moſt ſubtle and evaſive of all ſorts of reprobates, ſo that the fact lay a long time in ſilence. This pedlar, it ſeems, had an only brother, to whom the reverſion of his ſubſtance belonged; and his brother, not ſeeing or hearing from him of a long time, went through the whole country, and through many parts of the kingdom, inquiring after him. At length he arrived, one evening, at an inn ſome miles from hence, where he found in the kitchen, ſeven men jovially ſeated over a bowl of punch; he quickly accepted their invitation, and having ſpent the time pleaſantly, and the houſe being thronged, he, and one of the company, were ſhewn to the ſame bed.

About midnight, his companion began to moan

moan moſt piteouſly, when, jogging and aſking him why he groaned? O, Fielding's barn! he cried, Fielding's barn! Fielding's barn! Again, he cried, You cannot ſay it; you cannot ſay that my hand was in the murder. Again, he would mutter, with a half-ſmothered voice, See, ſee, how, how he ſtruggles, ſee how he kicks; put, put him out of pain, O put him out of pain!

Hereupon the brother roſe, and dreſſed as quietly as poſſible, and making away to the next magiſtrate, he returned, ſeized, and carried off his bed-fellow, before any of his comerades were apprifed of the matter.

What have you done you villain? ſaid the magiſtrate without preface; what have you done with the body of the pedlar whom you murdered in Fielding's barn? On this queſtion, the wretch, thinking that all was detected, inſtantly fell on his knees. I had neither hand nor heart in the murder, Sir, he cried; and if you will get me a pardon, I will faithfully tell you the whole affair. On his confeſſion, the five principal rogues were taken before they were out of bed. And on his evidence, and that of their ſeventh companion, they were ſentenced, and this day executed, and are to be gibbetted in the morning.

During this narration, I could not refrain from expreſſing, by my countenance and geſture, the ſtrong compunction I felt on recollecting

lecting my long aſſociation with thoſe reprobates; but my good maſter, as I ſuppoſe, aſcribed my emotions merely to the deteſtation which I had of their deeds.

I had been cloſe upon two years in the ſervice of Mr Felton, and he had lately agreed with me at 25 l. yearly, whereof he paid me the laſt years' wages in hand; when one evening as I ſtood behind the counter, a young woman came in, and deſired to ſee ſuch and ſuch goods. While ſhe was cheapening on the one hand, and I ſetting forth the extraordinary value on the other, ſeveral intelligent glances were exchanged between us. Whenever her eyes met mine, ſhe inſtantly caſt them down with a bluſhing modeſty; and yet whenever I looked at her, I ſaw that her eyes had been fixed upon me. At length having bought ſome little matters, ſhe made me a baſhful courteſy, and going out at the door, ſhe turned upon me with a ſignificant glance, and departed.

All that night I felt myſelf as I had never felt before; I turned and turned again from the image of this girl, and yet ſhe ſeemed to ſtand before me, and to look upon me, as ſhe had done the day before.

For five tedious days ſhe with-held herſelf from my ſight, and I feared that I ſhould never behold her any more. At length ſhe came, and I ſtrove in vain to conceal my joy on her appear-

ppearance. After cheapening and paying for ome little matters, she cast her eye on a piece f silk, which, she said, she fancied greatly, but eared that her pocket would not reach so far. O Miss! said I, we shall not quarrel for such a natter, provided I know where to call for the noney. On Sarah Simper, Sir, said she, at uch a sign, in such a row.

As I had three or four spare hours from bu-ineſs every evening, I gladly laid hold of the ccasion I had gotten for spending that time in its to my beloved. I went indeed, without orming any purpose or intention, save the leasure of seeing her. Her fondness seemed, t least, to equal my own; and though we pro-eeded at times to toying and dallying, yet for hree weeks we kept within warrantable limits. ut this was not always the case. Our first ansgression was succeeded, on her part, by ears and reproaches, and, on mine, by a depth f sorrow and remorse.

As this was my first fault, with respect to oman, my conscience was yet unfeeled. I ent the night in sighs and tears of contrition, nd I repeated a thousand promises and vows o my God, that I never would be guilty of e like again.

For five entire days I kept from going to her. t length I considered, that, as I had injured er, I ought to make her such recompence as as in my power. I put about twelve pounds

into

into my pocket, being all that I had left of my last year's salary, and went and told her that I was come to take my leave of her; then, pouring the money into her lap, I promised to give her what I should earn from time to time, and to marry her whenever I should be enabled to maintain a family. Here we both fell into tears, and from tears we proceeded to caresses, and so forth, till at last we became as guilty as we had been before.

In like manner, for the six ensuing weeks, I kept on in a course of repenting and sinning, and of sinning, and again repenting. Every night I formed resolutions which I imagined would be stronger than any I had made before; but whatever force I put on myself, whatever strength I exerted, I never was able to persevere for three days together. When I felt myself drawn to her, as by some irresistible power, I vowed, and flattered myself on the way, that I would return without transgressing; but, when I came to her, I found it quite as impossible to keep from sinning with her, as it was to keep from her. Thus, by frail and falsified vows, I daily continued to add to the heap of my guilt, till at length I became hopeless of any ability to resist temptation, and sinned on with my eyes open, and yet with less remorse than before.

As I was sitting with her one evening, a bailiff entered suddenly, and laid an action upon her for fifteen pounds, which he said, she pro-

ifed to pay for her mother in her laſt illneſs. Whether the debt was feigned, and the caption reconcerted between them, I know not: but afterward recollected, that ſhe did not ſeem be ſo alarmed, as one would have expected uchlan occaſion. On the other hand, my ſoul as filled with bitter and diſtracting thoughts. could not think of ſuffering my love to be onfined among fellows in a common priſon; nd yet how to come by the money, I knew ot. I offered the man my note payable when y ſalary ſhould be due; but he refuſed to part without inſtant payment. Hereupon I urried home, and taking out 5 l. of my maer's money, I returned and diſcharged the ction.

From this time my fair one began to extend er appetites, and to riſe in her paſſions. Under olour of being with child, her longings and ts came frequent upon her, and I was in a manr conſtrained to indulge her, till I had taken f my maſter's money to the amount of fifty ounds.

David, ſaid ſhe one day, it is time to tell you hat I muſt ſoon quit my mantuamaking buſiefs, for I am growing too big to appear with ecency among my cuſtomers. So you muſt take other lodgings for me, and provide a ſuffi nt ound to defray the many neceſſary expences of hild-birth. And where, my deareſt Sally! ay ſuch a fund be provided? I have already

gone

gone lengths for you that may bring me to the gallows. If you had not been a poor-spirited fellow, says she, you could not bear to live in the fears that haunt you so; you would long since have made away with that old scoundrel your master. Here, throw this little dust into his broth, or his posset, and then you may wallow in money without fear of account.

Here I looked her full in the face, when every beauty that had once enchanted me, suddenly vanished from my sight, and I saw nothing but the dire head of a snaky Medusa. However, I suppressed my horror as well as I could; and putting back the paper, No, no, no, no, Sally, said I, I would rather die the worst of deaths myself, than have a hand in making away with my kind old master. And die you shall then, she cried, for I will not perish alone. She then dropped on her knees, and vowed, with fearful imprecations, that she would go directly to Mr Felton, and make a discovery of my robberies; that she would also go to the next magistrate, and swear a rape against me; and that she would poison herself, and the bastard within her, that she might not bring it to the world any part of such a villain.

While she spoke, her aspect looked livid and deadly, and wrath and desperation flashed in fire from her eyes.

My dear Sally, said I, lower your passions a little, give me that paper again; we shall see what

hat may be done. And here I leave you my atch as a pledge of my return by to-morrow at oon. This I did, however, not with the fmallft intention of keeping my promife; for I determined never more to look her in the face. ut I bequeathed to her, as it were, the only ake of value which remained to me, that the retch whom I had ruined might not be left together without means of life.

When I got into the ftreet, I haftened homeard, without deliberating a moment on what was about, or on the confequences that might nfue. My maſter was in a back chamber, ooking over fome letters, when I ruſhed in recipitately, and ſhut the door behind me. What is the matter, child, fays he; are you ot well? You look pale and affrighted; what the matter, David? O Sir! O Sir! and I nk upon my knees, I bring to you a villain, reprobate, a thief, a robber, a betrayer of uſts, alſo the vileſt ſinner that ever ſinned gainſt God and againſt man. I got in league ith a bad woman who ſeduced me by her eauty, and then prevailed upon me to defraud nd rob you, and would have perſuaded me murder you; but there I ſtopt ſhort: I ould not be prevailed upon to murder you, y maſter! Pray then, ſaid he ſomewhat ſtern, to what intent are you come? To demand ſtice, Sir? I cried, and to appeaſe my own nſcience by ſuffering for my faults. Tell

me them, said he mildly, and tell me truly of how much money have you defrauded me? Of fifty pounds, Sir! I answered, a few shillings under or over. Rise then, pray rise, my David! he cried; I would not bring you to shame, and much less to punishment, for five times the value of fifty pounds. I owe you for your services, very nearly that sum, and forgive you the remainder with all my heart. No, Sir! I cried aloud, and burst into tears, you do not forgive me, you cannot forgive me, for this your goodness does but heap a heavier guilt upon my soul.

He then got up and came to me, and raising me to his bosom, he embraced me, and cried, I rejoice over thee, my David, I rejoice over thee, my child, as Heaven rejoiceth over the one sinner that repenteth, more than over the ninety and nine that have no need of repentance. You now know your own frailties, you are sensible of your lapses; you will be cautious of future falls; and you stand upon firmer ground than ever.

You know me not, I exclaimed! You know me not, my good master. I am wholly irreclaimable. The devil has taken possession of me, and reigns through all my members. I find it quite in vain to strive or struggle against him. I have no more strength than a child against temptation; no more power than

eak and fainting man againſt a torrent that ready has borne him far away.

I will pray for you, my ſon, ſaid the good an vehemently! I will wreſtle with my God r you! and his grace ſhall be ſufficient. No, ir, I replied, after that which has happened, never ſhall be able to look you in the face, will not truſt myſelf. I know that I ſhould ll on the firſt trial. Will you leave me then, e cried, will you leave me, my ſon David? nd he took out his handkerchief, and wiped way the falling tear. I muſt, I anſwered, I uſt leave you, my deareſt maſter, I ſhould e miſerable if I ſtaid. I will go directly to a, I will confine myſelf in ſome ſhip, where ſhall be ſhut from any commerce or com- unication with mankind, and not have it in y reach to wrong or damage any perſon. nd, indeed, I could not bear to ſtay in one wn, or even in one kingdom, with that bad oman. Where may ſhe be found, David? id Mr Felton. Ah! Sir! I exclaimed, leave r to God, and to her own evil conſcience, I eſeech you. I believe ſhe is with child by me. o not deſire, my maſter, to hurt a little nocent, that has not yet ſeen the light! No, y David, no; I mean nothing but comfort her. I mean to ſupply her wants, and to ſten her diſtreſſes. She will not then be mpted to wiſh hurt to her benefactor, and

I will take care of the little wretch which she carries in her body, for your ſake, my David.

There was ſomething ſo affecting, Gentlemen, in ſuch a proof of wonderful goodneſs, as muſt have ſtruck to the heart of the moſt abandoned reprobate. I was quite overcome thereby. I fell ſuddenly at his feet, and I wiſhed to pour out my very ſoul, in the ſame manner as I poured my tears upon them.

As he now found that I was bent and determined on departing, David, ſays he, ſince you will go, you muſt not go unprovided. A ſailor ought to have proper neceſſaries; and, if you will give me your company for three or four days longer, I will get you a good birth in ſome ſhip or other. Mean time I would adviſe you to ſet about your preparations; for which purpoſe you muſt accept theſe fifty guineas, which you may pleaſe to return me, when ſome happy adventure ſhall furniſh you with means. No, no, Sir, I cried, putting his purſe back with my hand, your plan is not the plan of your reprobate ſervant; your good births are not at all for my purpoſe. I will go as a common ſailor; the meaneſt offices and the greateſt drudgery will be a penance too little, much too little, for my tranſgreſſions. And, ſo ſaying, I turned and went haſtily out.

I made directly to the quay, where I ſaw a crowd of citizens intermixed with ſailors. On going

going up, I found that they were enlisting volunteers, to whom they offered from one to three guineas per man. And what will you give me, Captain, if I go with you? He then looked earnestly at me, and, having eyed me several times, from head to foot, I will give you, my lad, said he, five guineas in your fist, and here is my hand for a hearty welcome into the bargain. If your Honour then will be pleased to order those five pieces to be laid out for me in such necessaries as you think fitting; I live at such a place, and shall be ready at a call. Enough, said the Captain, our ship is called the Centurion, of thirty guns, the brave David Jenkins commander. We set out by morning's tide, between ten and eleven; and if you come without a call, you will be the more welcome. So saying, he gave me a familiar shake by the hand, and we parted.

I then went directly home, and, calling Mr Felton aside, I told him of my success and engagement in the Centurion, suppressing only the time of my early departure; for I felt that I could not stand the parting with him, and I thought it best to make it as little painful to him and myself, as might be.

During supper, I endeavoured to chat, but could not. And as Mr Felton, at times, looked affectionately upon me, I turned my head aside, and a silent tear stole down my cheek.

I ſpent the night in ſighs and tears, and, getting up before day, I took my ſhoes in my hand, and ſtepping ſoftly down ſtairs, would have ſtolen out at the ſtreet-door; but in that inſtant, the door of a ſide-parlour was opened, and, before I could look about, my maſter had me in his arms. Will you leave me, then, David, will you indeed leave me? he cried. O, David, David, I love you next to my only child. Stay with me yet, my ſon, O, ſtay with me, my David, and I will do every thing, I will do all things that may be done for you.

Here I ſunk, and was juſt fainting, under the preſſure of his goodneſs. Do not kill me, my maſter, do not kill me outright, I cried. You muſt no longer be burdened by my body of ſin and death; as God has forſaken me, I muſt leave you, my maſter! let him do with me as he will, and if I periſh, I periſh. So ſaying, I broke from him, and away I ruſhed; weeping and ſobbing all the way, as though my heart would cleave in aſunder.

The captain received me with great cordiality, and at times called me his name ſake, and was very familiar with me. The ſailors alſo, after his example, began to careſs me without any appearance of envy; for though I had not been exerciſed in the profeſſion, yet I was ſtrong, hale, and active and ready to aſſiſt them at every turn.

In the mean time, please your Honours, it may appear very extraordinary, though I felt daily compunction, and nightly wept many tears for having offended my God throughout the course of my life; yet I neither prayed to him, nor besought pardon from him, nor applied to him for any kind of support or assistance.

I was now incorporated with a fraternity whose wickedness was of a species quite different from that of my former brotherhood. Our sailors were so far from cheating and defrauding, that they scarce seemed to have any regard for property; and they were as brave a set of fellows as ever trode a deck. But then they were as hardened to any sense of religion or piety as the nether mill-stone; and the sacred and tremendous names of God, and his Christ, were of no other import to them than as the balls of a billiard-table, to be tossed and bandied about for sport.

At first this was a matter of great offence and horror to me. Can there be a God, I would say to myself, and can he suffer his tremendous name to be insulted and blasphemed as it is by these wretches? But, alas! I was not as one of the three captives at Babylon; I could not be cast into the furnace, and come forth without a singe. In time this profaneness became less irksome to my ears, and,

by

by degrees, I began to reliſh, and to catch the common contagion.

At times, however, ſome thoughts of God and a Saviour would come into my mind, and the pious impreſſion of my infancy would return upon me; but I did my beſt to banish them, as they ſerved but to torment me.

At times, again, I would ſilently expoſtulate, as it were, with God. It is true, I would ſay to him, I have been wicked, deſperately wicked, through a long courſe of ſinning; but did I not long ſtrive, and ſtruggle, and fight againſt temptation? If you meant me for yourſelf, why did you not make me with leſs proneneſs to evil? or why did you not give me greater ſtrength to reſiſt?

Again, ſhocking and blaſphemous thoughts would enter into my gloomy ſoul: As, though the goſpel were all a fable, and religion nothing but prieſt-craft: That all events were of chance: That men were good or evil, merely according to conſtitution; and that either there was no God, or he was too great, or too diſtant, to concern himſelf with the inſignificant affairs of mortals. But theſe ſuggeſtions of the tempter were never of long continuance; and again I would return to *believing* and *trembling*.

Our ſhip had been deſtined to protect the trade in the Levant. Within the ſpace of five months, we had reſcued from the captors ſix Engliſh

English ships, and made prize of three stout frigates, of those African pirates who war upon the world; when the boy from the masthead cried out, A sail! We immediately made chace, and found by evening that we had gained considerably upon her; but as the night came on thick and hazy, we shortened sail, and lay to till morning, but hung out no lights.

At dawn of day, we renewed the chace, though no sail was then in sight; but we had not continued it above four or five leagues, when we clearly discerned the same vessel, and perceived that she altered her course, and was bearing down toward us.

Hereupon we shortened sail, and waited for her. But we had not waited long, till we perceived a second vessel that seemed in chace of the first; and some time after saw a third that seemed in chace of the two former.

On this the lieutenant, an old and experienced sailor, looked somewhat blank, and desired that the captain would instantly call a council of war. Gentlemen, says he, the many captures we have lately made could not fail of informing our enemies that we are in these seas: and I apprehend, with great reason, that they have made choice of their best means to over-reach and over-match us, and to fall with their united force upon us. And indeed

ye

ye may already perceive, that the ſhip which we had in chace has ſhortened ſail, and waits to be joined by her two conſorts, whom ſhe ſeemed ſo lately to fear. I think, as the jockeys ſay, that we have more than foot for them; and all the queſtion is, whether Old England ſhall make uſe of her fleet to fly, while ſhe has any hands left wherewith ſhe may fight? At this they cried, with one voice, No flying! no flying! let them come on, the circumciſed dogs, as many as may be of them; we will neither take nor give quarter, they or we muſt to the bottom! To work then, my brave lads! cries Captain Jenkins, for we are likely to have as warm a bout of it as we could wiſh.

To buſtle went all hands. We had a clear ſhip in a moment; and, for the firſt time, ſtowed our hammocks in the nettings. The captain then chuſing a dozen of the beſt markſmen, he diſpoſed them in the tops, with ſtrick orders to direct their fire only at thoſe who appeared to be officers.

Our ſhip at this time was full manned with about two hundred and ſeventy ſpirits, all as ready and deſirous to go and meet death as a beau to go to a ball, or an alderman to a feaſt.

The three conſorts were now joined, as our mate had foreſeen, and bore down upon us right before the wind; and then it was that my ſins came crowding into my mind, and I believe

I was

was the only perſon in the ſhip's company who trembled.

They all came up with a deſperate boldneſs; and while one attacked us on our bow, a ſecond lay upon our quarter, while the third bore away under our ſtern, and raked us fore and aft with her whole broadſide; nor were we idle in the mean time, but plied our guns with ſuch ſpirit and ſucceſs as ſoon obliged them to ſheer off.

Our ſhip was of Engliſh oak, and ſtood their ſhot to a wonder; our metal was alſo much weightier than theirs; but then they outnumbered us three to one, in men and in guns.

Having got out of the reach of our ſhot, they moved off, as intending to make their eſcape; but, having repaired their damage, as well as time would allow, they returned upon us with two-fold reſolution and fury.

Then it was, Gentlemen, that ſuch a ſcene was opened, as was ſufficient to ſtrike hell itſelf with horror.

They now entertained us with a new kind of warfare. For getting up within piſtol ſhot, they toſſed their granadoes or hand ſhells among us, that were filled with broken bottles, and with ruſty and ragged pieces of old iron. Theſe did fearful execution, and our deck was quickly covered with blood and brains, and pieces of human fleſh, while the noiſe of the

cannon

cannon could ſcarcely drown the ſcreams of the wounded, and the groans of the dying.

In this deſperate ſituation we loaded all our guns with grape-ſhot, which made ſuch havoc among our enemies as obliged two of them to ſheer away again as faſt as they could, while the third kept playing upon us at a diſtance, till we forced her alſo to follow her conſorts.

We now had leiſure to clear our deck, and, with ſorrowful hearts, threw our dead companions overboard.

Having once more ſet all to rights, we bore down on all the three; but they crowded away from us, maintaining a running fight with their ſtern chace; and as they levelled their ſhot almoſt wholly at our rigging, by evening we were incapable of further purſuit.

Mean while we had plied them with our cannon ſo well, that, as it began to wax duſkish, we perceived the crew of the hindmoſt in much confuſion, and making ſignals of diſtreſs to their conſorts. Soon after we ſaw them heave out their boat, and they had ſcarce crowded into her when their ſhip went down. Hereon we gave a great ſhout, which we repeated on ſeeing their boat overſet. But, as the Moors are excellent ſwimmers, I ſuppoſe moſt of them got ſafe, and were taken in by their companions. In the mean ſpace our moſt gallant Captain Jenkins had his right leg and thigh car-

ried

fied off by a cannon-ſhot; I think it was the laſt ſhot the enemy fired.

As I ſtood by my captain's ſide, I catched him in my arms before he fell to the board, and cried out for the ſurgeons; but the effuſion of blood was ſo great, and ſo impoſſible to be ſtaunched, that we quickly deſpaired of any life for him.

As I ſupported him on deck with my right arm, he found himſelf growing faint, and turned his face to me. David, ſaid he, I am not afraid to die, for I am a Chriſtian. I believe, as ſurely as I am here, that Chriſt came into the world to ſave ſinners, of whom I am chief; and he is ſo great and ſo gracious, that he will not ſuffer hell or the grave to diſappoint him of an end for which he paid ſo dear a price. Here, my David, here is my purſe and my watch, which I bequeath to your love as my laſt legacy; and here is my diamond ring with which I entruſt you, as a token to my dear daughter, if ever it ſhall be your fortune to reviſit Old England. And if you ſhould go to London, my dear David, inquire out my good old friend, Alderman Bicker; tell him of my behaviour during your ſervice with me, and that I beſeech him to uſe his intereſt with our Protector, in procuring my pay for my poor ſweet child.

And that I will, right heartily, cried out Sir Thomas. I will alſo ſpeak a word for

yourſelf, my lad; the Protector cannot refuſe his favour to one who has had the honour of ſerving in the action of the Centurion, whoſe fame our very enemies have ſpread through Europe. But, pray, proceed in your narration; I long to hear the event of ſo intereſting a ſcene.

Though we greatly grieved for our captain, we were ſtill more concerned for the honour of England, leſt our good ſhip ſhould fall into the hands of the barbarians. For ſhe now lay like a hulk on the face of the water; ſhe could neither purſue nor avoid an enemy; and, though ſhe had been in plight, we had not hands left ſufficient to work her.

Night came on apace, hoſtilities ceaſed on both ſides; the pirates hung out lights, to prevent, as we ſuppoſed, their parting from each other; and we mournfully called a muſter of our men, in the dark; whereon we found that, of two hundred and ſeventy odd men we had but fifty remaining, twenty of whom were wounded, though not diſabled.

Come, my lads, cried the old Lieutenant, it is as good to be merry as ſad. We have work-ed enough to-day to give us an appetite. Let us have ſomething to eat, and a bowl of punch; and, if we die by morning, let us not die with cold hearts, and empty ſtomachs. Moreover, for your encouragement, I take upon me to promiſe, that, if you will be guided, I will make

make you masters of one of yonder vessels before sun rise.

We engaged compliance to a title; and accordingly, after we had refreshed ourselves plentifully, he ordered our boats to be heaved overboard, and let drive with the wind. We then set our watch, and went down to take a few hours repose.

Two hours before day we were roused by the Lieutenant, and the first thing we did was to bore a large hole in the side of our ship about a foot below water, for which we had an occasional plug prepared.

As soon as the day dawned, we set watches to give us timely notice of the enemies approach; and then lay down on our small arms out of observation.

The pirates, as we presumed, held up their glasses: but, seeing neither men nor boats in our ship, they concluded, that we had made an elopement by night, and came on without precaution or preparation.

As soon as they had arrived within about half a league, our watchmen, according to order, drew forth the plug, and, creeping upon deck, crouched down with us.

The consorts had agreed to board our ship on each side, in confidence of a rich and unresisting prize. But the moment that we heard the first of them rustling along-side, and perceived that they were beginning to get up our

ſide, we jumped up, as one man, and ſetting up a great ſhout, and overturning all we met, leaped into their veſſel.

Never was amazement like that of the enemy! They ſcarce made any reſiſtance, and, in leſs than a minute, not a Moor was left upon deck.

Mean time the other pirate had boarded our late veſſel, almoſt to a man. They had heard, indeed, the ſhout, with the clamour and groans of their fellows, but did not rightly know what to make of it; till, moving cloſe round the head of our former ſhip, we ſhot the few who were left in the ſecond frigate; then, throwing out our grapplings, we towed her off, and then bored and ſunk her in the face of her owners.

They thereupon ſet up ſuch a yell of deſpair and horror as was affecting, even to the hearts of there enemies. At length they turned the cannon of the Centurion upon us, but we ſoon got out of reach of their ſhot; and by the time we were about three leagues from them, we ſaw our good Centurion go to the bottom, the glorious tomb of her noble captain.

We now thought that, of about a thouſand aſſailants, there was not one left to carry tidings to their native country of their defeat. But, going down to the ſtate-cabin, I ſaw a young man richly dreſſed, and of a noble ſpect,

pect, leaning wounded upon a couch, with three attendants about him.

As I entered, he gave me a look that seemed compounded of apprehension and courage, and accosted me in broken English, for he had travelled much, and resided for a season in London.

I know, said he, that I am your prisoner; I also know what I am to expect. Draw your cutlass then, and let me join my countrymen! No, Sir, I replied, you have nothing to fear from me. A man, who deserves that name, owes nothing but love to man, except when he is assaulted; the brave see no enemy in the feeble or the conquered.

Where have you learned, he cried, the sentiments of my own soul? But your generosity shall lose you nothing; demand what ransom you please, and it shall be paid you. I am not commander in chief, I answered; but, as far as my influence reaches, you are free as air, and shall be bound to us by nothing but your affections. Then, stretching forth his arm, Your hand, my brother! he cried; and giving me a kind squeeze, the tear came into his eye.

I went directly on deck, and informed our little crew, now reduced to thirty-three, of what had passed between the noble Moor and myself; and told them, I hoped they would be so generous as to make my promise good. To

this the greater number gladly aſſented, but ſome of them murmured. Hereupon I remonſtrated, that we were already rich enough; for we had brought all the money out of our own ſhip, beſide the great treaſure in the pirate-frigate, which we had not yet divided. I further repreſented, that we knew not what the events of war or fortune might be; and that it would not be imprudent to make a friend on the African coaſt, who, in all appearance, was a perſon of high conſideration; and, with theſe reaſons, at length all appeared to be ſatisfied.

I then carried the pleaſing tidings to my new friend, and took with me our only ſurviving ſurgeon, who dreſſed the wound in his thigh, which had been made by a muſket-ball.

As ſoon as the ſurgeon had withdrawn, the noble Oſmyn of Petra, for ſo he was called, preſented me with his purſe, and a carbuncle-ring of extraordinary value, and preſſed them earneſtly upon me; but I as peremptorily refuſed them, and this refuſal appeared to diſtreſs him greatly.

During the five days in which we continued together, I had him as tenderly and as honourably attended, as our circumſtances would admit; and I ſpent with him all the time I could ſpare from my duties and great fatigues upon deck, as all the hands we had were kept buſily employed in ſplicing the ropes, refitting the

the mangled ſails and rigging, and in repairing the breaches of the veſſel, for our ſhot had bored her ſides quite through in ſeveral places.

On theſe accounts we ſailed but heavily, ſtill making towards the Streights, and daily wiſhing to meet or be overtaken by ſome Engliſh ſhip of force, to which we might ſafely confide ourſelves and our treaſures.

On the ſixth morning, having arrived within twenty leagues of the mouth, the day diſcovered to us, that we were almoſt within ſhot of a ſhip that carried Engliſh colours. Hereat we rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and ſlackening our ſail, and heaving out a ſmall boat, ten of us ſlipt into it, and away we rowed with all our might. As we approached, we ſaw numbers, in Engliſh dreſſes, walking to and again on deck; and, getting along-ſide, they threw ropes over to us, and we mounted with great alacrity.

Hitherto we were ſo intoxicated with joy, that we had not the precaution to hail them, till we found ourſelves in the very thick of our enemies. I looked round, and ſeeing none but tawny and hoſtile faces about me, I civilly demanded who, and of what country they were; when a ruffian, gathering his ſpittle ſpirted it full in my face, and, at the ſame time, gave me a buffet on the ſide of my cheek. Then I did not once reflect either where or among whom I was, but with one ſtroke of my

my fiſt, I ſtretched him flat upon the deck; then throwing up the heels of another who had raiſed his arm againſt me, he fell with his head foremoſt acroſs his fellow; and twiſting round on a third, who had ſeized me behind by the ſhoulder, I dragged him under me, and we fell together upon the board. Here a crowd of them gathered over me, and, each helping to hold a leg or an arm, I was bound with cords that cruſhed my fleſh to the very bone, and then tumbled with kicks, like a dog, along the deck.

Mean time my nine companions who had offered to interpoſe, were alſo ſeized and bound, and caſt into the hold.

For about three hours I lay in exceſſive anguiſh, though through a ſort of ſtubborn pride, I endeavoured to ſuppreſs my groans. In the interim I felt the ſhip begin to move, and ſoon after I perceived all in a buſtle about me. Again I heard from within and without, ſeveral diſcharges of ſmall arms, and as I ſaw ſeveral Moors fall lifeleſs or convulſive, and biting the deck around me, I rightly concluded that the ſhips were engaged. I gave a long and deep groan, and I cried aloud, O, my countrymen! my brave countrymen! why am I not with you? why have I not the happineſs of dying with you and for you? and my heart was ſo wrung that I fainted quite away.

I afterwards learned, that my true and va-

ant fellows had refuſed to ſubmit upon ſummons: that the pirate, ſeeing them ſo few, and being deſirous of ſaving the frigate for their own uſe, had attacked them with ſmall arms, which were warmly anſwered on our part; when, having dropped or diſabled above half of our brave Engliſh, with two of Oſmyn's attendants who happened to be upon deck, they entered and mercileſsly butchered the remainder, among whom was our old mate and ſurgeon.

Mean time I lay inſenſible to all that paſſed, till a ruffian ſeeing me pale and lifeleſs, in all appearance, gave me a wring by the noſe. Hereupon I awaked to the bittereſt ſenſations. It remembered me of my gallant meſſmates, who had ſo loved and careſſed me above my merits; and my tears, without ſigh or groan, went in ſtreams down my cheeks.

At length I heard a voice, a known voice, as I thought, crying, Where is my friend, where is my brother David? and turning my head a little, I ſaw my noble Oſmyn juſt entering the ſhip.

O, Gentlemen! be not apt to judge hardly of all who have not learned Chriſt, by the form and by the letter. Oſmyn, my Oſmyn proves, that he may be in the heart of thoſe who never acknowledged his name, although they have felt his power. And indeed, as the apoſtle writes, thoſe who never learned his law, yet, having

having his law, or rather himself, in their hearts, shall be justified.

Having instantly cast an eye of searching love around, he 'spied where I lay, and coming and throwing himself beside me, he put one arm about, and cried, O, my brother! my brother David? is it thus that my people use you? I grieve, that you Christians should beat us all to nothing in honour and humanity. He then took out his knife, and having tenderly cut my cords, he strained his own ability to help me to rise.

He then called for the captain, who came bowing to him with great respect. Their discourse was long and earnest. At length Ofmyn rose high in passion, and gave the captain a back stroke with his hand across the face. I observed his choler swelling, almost to suffocation; but he suppressed his indignation, and retired in silence. I heard Ofmyn then giving some orders to the men; but, as I was a stranger to their language, I knew not the purport of any thing that passed. Soon after, however, I saw my nine companions brought down the hold, and unbound. And Ofmyn, turning to me, desired me to tell my people, that they were all free; and that as soon as we landed in Barbary, he would take the first means of sending them with honour to their native country. Ah! my Lord, I cried, I am sorry that you struck the captain; he has many adhe-

rents

rents here, and will certainly ſeek ſome me-thod of revenge. He dare not, he dare not, replied my friend; the villain would have diſputed with me the property of my own frigate, which I manned and fitted out at my own expence. But if I hear or ſee any more of his inſolence, as ſoon as we land I will complain to the Dey my uncle, and have the rogue impaled alive.

He then ordered out the long-boat, and, turning to me, ſaid, I am going David, to take an account of what effects are left in my ſhip; and I would take you with me if you were in a condition to go; but I will ſoon return, and, in the mean time, order the ſurgeon to do his beſt for allaying the ſwelling in your limbs.

During his abſence, the ſhip's company, and even the captain, whoſe name was Barbar, behaved themſelves toward me and my fellows with great, though ſilent, civility; and a plentiful meſs was ſerved up to us for dinner. But during our repaſt I obſerved, that the captain called ſuch and ſuch of his men to the quarter-deck, where he held with them a long and whiſpering kind of converſation.

Theſe fellows as it ſeems, were the moſt barbarous and bloody of all their barbarous and bloody countrymen. Having taken the ſhip wherein we then were, a merchantman, carrying about twenty guns, they had maſſacred every creature on board, and then dreſſed themſelves

ſelves in the clothes of the Engliſh, in order to inveigle others in the like calamity; while they diſpatched their own frigate back to Tunis to get recruits.

My noble friend did not return till late in the evening. He then ordered ſupper to be got ready, and the ſtate-cabin to be prepared for him and me to lie in; but I whiſpered and beſought him to excuſe me for declining that honour, as I perceived that the favours which he did me, had already given much umbrage and offence to his countrymen.

I know not whence, or for what purpoſe, forebodings may come; but all that night, my ſpirits were exceedingly ſad and depreſſed; and though my fellows and I were put to lie in a part of the ſhip, the moſt remote from my friend, yet I imagined that I heard ſecret treadings and mutterings; and again, at dead of night, that I heard the diſtant ſound of trampling and ſtruggling, as of people in doing and receiving violence.

I was ſtill ſore from the tyings and the bruiſes which I had received; when, toward the end of a ſleepleſs night, a gang of armed ruffians entered the place where we lay, and loaded us with irons. They then took away all our clothes and treaſures, and threw to each of us a canvas ſhirt and drawers, as ſlaves prepared for the market.

The moment they laid their hands upon me, it

it occurred that they would not have dared to do it, if they had not firſt made away with my dear friend and patron; at which thought my ſoul grew inſtantly ſick, and a dark cloud of ſorrow fell heavily upon it.

Sore and ſhackled as I was, I got immediately on deck, and looked wiſtfully out to ſea, but could diſcover no frigate. I then ſhuffled along as faſt as I could to the cabin, where I had parted the night before with my Oſmyn, and looking in at the door, I cried aloud, Where are you, Lord Oſmyn, where are you, my maſter! my friend! my dear Oſmyn! where are you, where are you?

When no anſwer could be had, I returned wild with rage and grief, and notwithſtanding my chains, had I not been diſabled by my contuſions, I ſhould have done my beſt to throttle every man I met. But all I could do was to wring my hands, and roar aloud to all around. Ye butchers! ye cut-throats! ye villains of all villains! what have ye done with your Lord, what have you done with your maſter, what have ye done with my friend, with my Oſmyn, my Oſmyn?

For two nights and two days I taſted nothing but water, which I drank in large quantities, as my ſoul, as well as body, was in a ferment and fever. On the third day, the captain fearing that I would die of grief, and that he ſhould loſe what he propoſed to get by my ſale,

fent a kind of interpreter to me, to let me know, that, on the night in which I parted with Ofmyn, he and the captain ſoon after had ſome warm words concerning their rights in the frigate, and in the Engliſh now on board; whereupon Ofmyn ſwore, that he would not remain any longer in his ſhip; and that, taking with him a number of hands, he reimbarked in the frigate, and directly ſet ſail.

As this tale carried with it ſome face of fact, I grew eaſier in my mind; and, on the very day following, having anchored in the bay of Algiers, my fellows and I were led into the town, and ſold at public market.

I happened to be bought by one of the Dey's factors, who immediately ſent me to work at his country palace.

This work was a moſt ſtupendous undertaking. Above five hundred men had been daily employed in it for two years paſt, and yet a third of it was not done when I arrived.

A large lawn extended itſelf in the front of the palace, and here the Dey had ordered a great canal to be dug, and from its excavation a mount to be raiſed, whoſe baſe meaſured three hundred yards in circumference. Its aſcent was eaſy and ſpiral, much reſembling the prints you have ſeen of the tower of Babel. The border of this aſcent was adorned all the way with lofty cedars interlaced with ſhrubs of aromatic and flowering ſhrubs.

from the top before I left it, was to be seen the bay, the shipping, the city, and country all around, while distant mountains on the one hand, and an extent of ocean on the other, alone bounded the prospect.

You will think it very extraordinary, Gentlemen, when I assure you, that, till I was in a state of slavery, my mind never was free. Hitherto I had been the slave of sin, and of appetite, of passions, and of fears. But here I counted to set up my rest for life. I had no parents, no wealthy kindred, no friend upon earth, to whom I might look for a pennyworth of ransom. There was therefore no further prospect for me, there was nothing further left to incite my desire, or to excite my concern; and I sunk gradually, as it were, down into the peace of my own nothingness.

I had been lately the possessor of the value of some thousands, and now I had not wherewithal to purchase a morsel of bread. But I looked back on the many scenes of my very many wickednesses, and I did not look up to, but looked down before my God, and cried, Not enough, it is not yet enough, O Lord! Something sharper, something heavier! some punishment that may expiate and reconcile me to my God!

One night as I lay on my bed of stubble, I looked up to God, through the cloud of my own iniquities, and said, in life, O my Lord,

lay what thou pleaſeſt upon me, but, in the hour of death, ſave, ſave me from the judgment! Whereupon ſomething within me ſaid, Fear not, thou vile wretch, fear not, thou worm David, for nothing ſhall be able to pluck thee out of my hand. This gave me great conſolation, and conſolation was followed by peace, and peace was followed by pleaſure; inſomuch that I poſſeſſed more of the ſweetneſs of heaven, felt enjoyment, than came to the ſhare of twenty ſenſualiſts.

The Dey or regent then being was called Ali Eben Buchar. He was a great warrior, and yet a man of an amiable character, which is rarely the caſe with Moorith governors. He had been at Conſtantinople when I was enſlaved; and, on his return, he was ſo ſeriouſly engaged in matters of ſtate, that he was not at leiſure to come and ſee our works. Towards the end of the ſecond year of my ſervitude he arrived with a pompous train. He was a portly and comely perſonage, though his complexion was a deep olive. He expreſſed much delight on ſurveying what we had done; and he ordered a feſtival of three days to be proclaimed for his labourers, with ſports, manly exercises, and prizes for the victors.

Great preparations were made for this entertainment. In a plain, on the left of the palace, a ſquare of half a mile diameter was inclоſed with pales; within which none were

mitted to enter, ſave the Dey and his train, with thoſe who laboured in his ſeveral works, amounting to about a thouſand men. On one ſide, within the pales, a throne was erected, with two ſeats, and lower benches were placed on either hand.

Early on the morning of the firſt appointed day, the feſtival was opened by the ſound of trumpets and horns, and other martial inſtruments.

It had been a cuſtom among us of the labourers who were young and active, when the day's work was over, to divert our fellows with various exerciſes and feats, ſuch as wreſtling, running, leaping, and toſſing or trundling leaden balls, and ſo forth; I was therefore up among the ſooneſt, in hopes of diſtinguiſhing myſelf on the occaſion.

By the dawning, the city was emptied of its inhabitants, and crowds came on after crowds, from all parts of the country, ſo that the pales were ſoon circled by an innumerable concourſe.

Then came Ali, with his attendants, and entering the pale, aſcended his throne, while his courtiers and guards arranged themſelves behind.

Then were exalted, on poles, the prizes that were to be given to ſuch of the ſlaves, or labourers, as excelled in toſſing the javelin, or in hitting a diſtant mark with the bow or with

the fling. But, as I had not been practiſed in theſe matters, I contented myſelf, for this day, with being a ſpectator. Some of the candidates, on this occaſion, were extremely expert, and would ſend an arrow, or fling a ſtone, more directly to the mark than any European could ſhoot a muſket-bullet; accordingly the generous Ali added freedom to the prizes which they had won, and immediately preferred them among his troops.

After this, Ali, to entertain his people, ordered a dozen of his courtiers to run at the ring. Immediately a number of neighing ſteeds, richly capariſoned, were led by lackeys into the liſts. The young nobles, without ſtirrup or ſaddle, vaulted lightly into their ſeats, and turning and winding their fiery beaſts with wonderful command and addreſs, gave high delight to the ſpectators. Each of them then caught a javelin, which was toſſed to him by an attendant; and ſetting out, ſucceſſively almoſt at their ſpeed, three of them, in their courſe, bore off a ſmall ring of braſs, from the thread by which it hung, on the point of his lance.

After this, again, a great number of burleſque comedians entered the pales, in order to act one of their African drolls or pantomimes; ſome of them repreſented men, ſome tygers, lions, and bears; others ghoſts, and other goblins. But I could make nothing of their jumbled

jamblement of intention, although it gave great diverſion to the populace. And thus ended the ſports of the preſent day.

While the people retired homeward, ſeveral waggons were drawn in, heavy laden with victuals and cooling liquors, wherewith all the ſlaves and labourers were plentifully regaled.

The ſecond day was uſhered in with the like pomp as the former; and prizes were ſet up for lifting the weight, for toſſing the coit, and for pitching the bar.

At a little diſtance from the front of the throne, a ring was faſtened to a leaden maſs, that weighed above five hundred pounds, and above fifty adventurers ſucceſſively attempted to lift, but not a man of them could move it. I then advanced, bowing lowly toward the throne, and putting my right hand in the ring, and exerting my powers, I raiſed it fairly from the ground, whereupon a great ſhout was ſuddenly given by all my companions who worked with me at the mount. Hereupon a black came up, of Herculean bulk and brawn, and, deſiring that fifty pounds more ſhould be added to the lead, he lifted and ſwung them in the air with apparent eaſe, and the prize was accordingly adjudged to him.

A large iron coit was then given to the competitors, and about a dozen of them toſſed it to a diſtance that was thought extraordinary.

I then

I then took it up, and threw it three foot beyond the fartheſt. But again, the black ſlave came up, who was not of our company, and toſſed it two feet beyond my caſt, and conſequently atchieved the ſecond prize.

A long and maſſive bar was then preſented to us, but all refuſed to take it in hand, till the ſame black ſeized it, and, putting one end to his foot, pitched it off to a diſtance that raiſed a cry of admiration. I then took my turn, and giving my whole ſtrength and action to this ſingle caſt, I pitched it ſome inches beyond the throw of my rival, whereupon another ſhout was given and repeated. The black then was wholly enflamed by envy and reſentment, and reclaiming the bar, and exerting all his force, he threw it to a length, that, on admeaſurement, was judged to exceed my caſt, and he proudly laid hold on the third prize.

The great Ali then ordered me to be brought before him. I went, and bending on my knee, laid my head to the earth. Riſe, ſaid he; I obeyed, and he ſurveyed me with long and earneſt attention. Young man, he cried, you have been this day ſomething unfortunate, but you have not the leſs merit; put this ring on your finger, it diſcharges you henceforth from all kind of labour; but it does not enfranchiſe you, becauſe, for the preſent, I do not chuſe to part with you. I reſpectfully took

took the ring, and again bowing to the ground, retired in silence.

A tournament of the young nobles then ensued, wherein great feats of action and prowess were shewn. And the day ended with another droll to which I gave no heed.

The morning of the third day was opened as usual, and prizes were exhibited for wrestling, for running, and for leaping.

Immediately the black champion stepped formidably forth, and challenged any to approach, who desired to be crushed to death, but not a man accepted this charitable invitation. Unwilling, then, that this boaster should carry off the prize without a contest, I stepped from my rank, depending more upon action than force to cope with him. We both stripped to our canvas drawers, and his looks and gestures menaced me with instant destruction. I advanced however to essay him, and he stretched his arms toward me, as a vulture would reach his pounces to seize upon a chicken; when, springing instantly up to him, I put a hand upon each of his shoulders, and vaulting lightly over his head, I turned nimbly upon him, threw up his heels, and laid him at his length on the earth.

As the contrast of our colours had rendered us remarkable to all the spectators, a shout was set up that rent the very elements. But the black arose, and roared aloud, with his lion

like

like voice, for juſtice; and the judges, on weighing the matter, appointed me to another trial, forbidding further fraud.

Again we prepared to engage, and again my black adverſary ſtretched forth his arms, with eyes flaſhing fire, and features diſtorted with rage; when retiring from him, as if diſmayed, I ſhot forward like lightning, and ſpringing from the ground, I pitched the whole weight of my body into his boſom. This ſtaggered him ſome ſteps backward, when continuing to preſs upon him, I put one foot behind, and he fell under me, with a horrible ſquelch upon the ſand; and daſhing my hand againſt his forehead, I ſprung up lightly on my feet.

Here the people repeated their clamours, which were echoed for a long ſpace from ſide to ſide; while I propoſed to the judges, that if my rival was not yet ſatisfied, I would give him the other venture. But the black was ſo far from being in plight for a third engagement, that he could not riſe without help on either hand; and the prize being a fine turban with a diamond button, was put upon my head.

The competitors for the race then came from among the crowd, being fifteen in number, lightly equipt for the purpoſe; and I alſo put on a thin canvaſs waiſtcoat that came cloſe to my body.

In the front of the throne, a long pole was ſet up, from whence we were to ſtart, and an-

other pole was erected on the further ſide, round which we were to run, and ſo return to the poſt from whence we ſet out.

We were all arranged in a line, and Ali himſelf was to give the word, when one of our fellows, either thinking, or pretending to think, that the word was given, ſtarted away, the reſt followed, and I was left alone, quietly ſtanding by the poſt. Why do not you ſet out? ſaid Ali. When your Highneſs ſhall be pleaſed to give the word. Away, then! he cried, and away I ſprung.

As I found that I was gathering them up very faſt, I ſuſpended my ſpeed, and lingered behind the hindmoſt, till they had all turned the poſt, and extended in a long line before me. I then ſtarted away, and paſſed one, and then another, till, having paſſed them all, I left the foremoſt at a diſtance behind me, and ſeized the goal; whereon Ali himſelf gave a cry of admiration, which was anſwered from all ſides by all his people.

I was then preſented with a velvet tunic embroidered with gold; and ſome ſmaller matters were given to the two who came next to me in ſpeed.

The candidates for the third prize then roſe from the ground where they had ſat to repoſe themſelves; for they were the ſame perſons who had been competitors in the race. A ſcarlet girdle was ſtretched along the graſs, as a

mark

mark from whence the rivals were to ſet off on their leap. And each of them took a run, till they came to the appointed limit, and then ſprung forward with their utmoſt agility.

As this, of all others, was the article of bodily exerciſe wherein I excelled, I ſtood by as an unconcerned ſpectator, till the conteſt was over. I then meaſured with my eye the length they had paſſed. Then, taking two men, I ſet them in mid-ſpace, and placing a pole upon their heads, I took a run, and throwing myſelf head foremoſt over the pole, I turned in the air, and alighted ſix inches beyond the fartheſt leap; whereupon I was preſented with a collar adorned with gems of great luſtre.

Ali then ordered two troops of his lighteſt horſe to come forward. Accordingly they entered the pale, and, dividing, they retired to oppoſite ſides of the liſts. The populace then fell back, and cleared the intermediate ſpace, and the young officers ſet forward, on a half-gallop, at the head of their troops.

Never did I ſee ſuch action, ſuch horſemanſhip. The officers, as they rode ſwiftly forward, would toſs their lances aloft, and then catch them in mid air; and again they would caſt them to a diſtance before them, and, ſtooping, take them from the ground in the midſt of their ſpeed.

The troops then met, as ſhould ſeem, in mortal oppoſition; and breaking their frail lances

againſt each other, they drew the wooden ſabres, and each, paſſing his adverſary, gave a back ſtroke to his neck with ſuch force and agility as was truly alarming. Their ranks then appeared to be broken on either part. And, inſtantly forming themſelves into little rhombs, or ſquares, or wedges, they fought and mixed together, as in a country dance, with the moſt ſecular confuſion that ever was beheld.

This was juſtly delightful to all the ſpectators; and I regretted their departure for the ridiculous entrance of a third pantomime.

While this droll was preparing, I received an order from Ali, to dreſs myſelf in the prizes which I had won, and to attend him.

I obeyed, and preſented myſelf before him. What is your name, young man? David, ſo pleaſe your Highneſs. Are you of Chriſt or of Mahomet, David? My will is with Chriſt, to pleaſe you; but, while I confeſs him with my lips, my whole life has denied him. Then, David, if you will but forſake Chriſt, and turn to Mahomet, you ſhall be the friend of Ali, and I will heap treaſures, and titles, and great honours upon you. Ah, my lord! I cried out, though I hold my Chriſt but by a frail and feeble thread, yet I would not quit that thread for a chain of golden links, that ſhould bind the whole wealth of the world to my poſſeſſion. And why would your Highneſs deſire the ſervice of a traitor? He who proves a traitor to

his God, so please you, can never prove true to any master.

Well, David, said he mildly, we may talk of these matters hereafter. In the mean time, before I do you any grace, I ought at least to do you justice. You have already received the rewards of your valour and your address; but you have not yet received the reward of your obedience. You were the only one, David, who, at the risk of your own honour, attended on my word, and here I give you an earnest of the recompence that I intend you.

So saying, he presented me with a large and massive sabre, whose handle was studded with gems of great value. I received it on my knee; he then continued, Ask me now, David, what further gift you demand, except your dismission, and it shall be granted you, to a tenth of the treasure in my coffers.

When he had spoken, my eye was caught by one of his retinue, and immediately I recollected the features of the pirate Barbar.

I instantly cast myself prostrate before his throne, and cried aloud, Ah, generous Ali! may God multiply to you treasures and blessings a thousand-fold! I ask none of your treasures and possessions, O Ali! I only ask the head of that traitor, the head of Barbar; I ask but blood for blood: let him restore to me my friend, my brother, my Lord Osmyn; he has murdered,

murderer, a traitor, and such I will prove him by night or by day, by sea or by land; at any weapons, against any odds, I will prove him a traitor.

While I spoke thus impassioned, all about appeared under the utmost consternation; and Barbar trembled and turned pale, but did not dare to quit his station.

Rise, David, said Ali, and tell me what friend, what Osmyn thou dost mean? All I know of him, my Lord, is, that his name was Osmyn of Petra, and that he was nephew to some great prince in this part of the world.

Why, you dream surely, David, replied the regent, Osmyn of Petra was my own nephew; and he perished, with all his crew, by the hands of the English.

He did not perish by the hands of the English, I cried; the English were his preservers, his friends, his attendants, and he perished by the hands of his own countrymen, and more especially by the hands of this traitor Barbar.

Well, said Ali, we have not leisure, at present, to examine into the truth of these allegations; Guards, take that Barbar into safe and close custody, till we are better informed touching the facts with which he is charged. Mean time do you, David, follow in my train; for you must take up your lodging with me this night.

The palace, though it appeared one uni-

form edifice, was divided into two by an impaſſable barrier. The one was the occaſional habitation of Ali and his attendants: and his wives, with their eunuchs, were lodged in the other, where it was impalement for any man, ſave Ali himſelf, to enter.

For three days and nights, after I entered his palace, though I was treated with an attention that gave me much uneaſineſs, yet I had not the honour of being called to his preſence.

At length I was conducted by a private door to his cabinet. My friend David, ſaid he, what haſt thou to tell me concerning my dear and brave nephew Oſmyn? I then minutely, and at large, recited to him the particulars above related: and we ſhed many tears, that were mutually provoked by the tears of each other.

Having cloſed my narration, he caſt his eyes down a while, as in deep meditation; and raiſing them again, he ſaid, The preſumptions are ſtrong, very ſtrong, againſt the man, and yet there is a poſſibility that he may be guiltleſs. And though Oſmyn was my nephew, my blood, and almoſt my bowels; yet honour, humanity, demands of us, David, that nine criminals ſhould eſcape the puniſhment they deſerve, rather than one innocent perſon ſhould periſh in his righteouſneſs. But

the great Alla may give us further lights in this buſineſs.

In about five days after, a convict was to be ganched for the rape and murder of a free woman. He was to be thrown from the top of a high tower, from whoſe walls projected ſeveral ſharp and ſhagged inſtruments, reſembling hooks, ſcythes, tenters, &c. at certain diſtances, ſome below others.

He fainted ſeveral times as he was carrying to execution; and then being in an agony, he ſaid he had a matter of the higheſt conſequence to impart to the great Ali, and prayed to be brought directly into his preſence.

I was on the ſpot when he was led in, and looking earneſtly at him, recollected that he was the ruffian who had ſpit in my face, and given me a buffet when I entered Barbar's ſhip.

Wretch, cried the Dey, what haſt thou to ſay to Ali? That I am guilty, anſwered the convict, of crimes more heinous and capital than that for which I am to ſuffer; of crimes that nearly concern yourſelf, O Ali, but which you ſhall never know, unleſs you ſwear to me, by Mahomet, to mitigate the manner of my death. I do ſwear it ſaid the regent, provided the diſcovery which you make ſhall be found to be of due import.

He then depoſed, that on the night in which Oſmyn diſappeared, the captain, with

ten confederated ruffians, of whom he was one, entered the Prince's cabin, and having muffled the faces of him and his attendant, to prevent their crying out, bound them hand and foot, and heaved them through the window into a boat that waited for them: They then getting into the frigate, they maſſacred the ſeven Moors to whoſe care ſhe had been left, and rifling her of all the money, plate, and valuables they could find, they left the frigate, with Oſmyn and his attendant in her, and then returned to their own ſhip.

Here Barbar was ſent for, who was brought in chains, into the preſence. But as ſoon as he ſaw the face of the convict, without waiting to be confronted by his evidence, he ſtarted violently, with his head foremoſt, towards the oppoſite wall; and if a man who was at hand had not caught him by the chain, he would inſtantly have daſhed his ſkull to ſhivers.

Ali hereupon, without farther examination, ordered the head of the convict to be ſtruck off in the morning, and Barbar to be impaled in the face of the people.

Never was joy like mine, on hearing this ſentence pronounced againſt Barbar; and I roſe early the next morning in order to have the pleaſure of being at his execution.

He was ſo enfeebled by his pangs, that they were obliged to draw him on a ſledge to the

flake; and his countenance had all the impreſſions of death, deſpair, and hell repreſented upon it.

This, however, did not affect me with any other ſenſation than of that delight which is naturally felt on the gratification of revenge, till the executioners, with unfeeling hearts, and merry tauntings, began to rake the wretch in hand. But when I ſaw them with difficulty and great violence thruſting the flake through his body, which they run up withinſide the ſpinal bone, and ſo out at the back of his neck, in order to avoid his bowels, and keep him the longer in anguiſh; when I ſaw him writhing in agony, and heard his horrible roars and groanings, all my revenge was quickly turned into terror and compaſſion; his pangs and ſufferings, as it ſeemed, were tranſferred to my own perſon, and had I not turned away I ſhould have fainted on the ſpot.

The Dey, from this time, became extremely fond of me, and familiar with me. He allotted me an affluent penſion, with ſlaves, horſes, and attendants. He ſaid I ſhould be to him in the place of a nephew, and of a ſon, and he called me by the name of David Ulmyn.

Some time after, tidings were brought that Caled Amurath of Fez, was making mighty preparations to invade his dominions. We will more than meet him half-way, cried the gallant Ali; perhaps we may even prevent his threatened

threatened expedition. He then ſummoned his forces from all quarters. I was preſent when he made a general muſter of them. His foot were more formidable for their numbers than their diſcipline; but his horſe were perfectly trained, and made a moſt brilliant appearance.

The day before he ſet out, I threw myſelf at his feet. I will go with you my maſter, I will go with you, I cried. I will not have any command or poſt of preference or honour; I only deſire permiſſion to fight by your ſide, that you may witneſs how greatly I ſhall dare in your cauſe; how ready I ſhall be to take, to my own boſom, all the weapons that ſhall be aimed at your boſom, my father.

No, David, he replied, my people know you are ſtill a Chriſtian. I could not refrain from ſhewing the love I have for you; and that might be matter of jealouſy and diſcontent to my captains. I will leave you here a band of ſoldiers, with whom you are to encamp within ſight of my palace, and to keep theſe walls from violence, and my women from pollution. But, while you are their guardian, beware that you do not turn an invader, David! I would pardon you any thing but this; I would not pardon you the invaſion of my bed, David! Iſhmyn! No, my lord, I cried aloud, I cannot prove ungrateful. Though your women were as obvious to my walks as yonder payed

and though adorned with more graces than their firſt mother in paradiſe, they ſhould have no temptation for me, my maſter!

The next morning Ali began his march; and having eſcorted him a piece on his way, I returned to my charge.

That night, as I lay in my tent, I began to call myſelf to an account. David, ſaid I to my ſoul, thou haſt now gotten preferment, and riches, and honours; thou art, as it were, the ſecond man in the realm, and all this people have thee in high eſtimation; but art thou the better or the happier man for all this, David? Far otherwiſe, far otherwiſe. O frail and vain heart! theſe gauds and theſe glories have taken hold upon thee, and they have drawn a painted veil between me and my God. To my chain, and my ſtraw, and my nakedneſs! return me to them, O Lord! return me to my ſlavery, return me to my labours! I was not then, indeed, gaining conqueſts, and winning prizes; but I was near to obtaining "the prize "of the high calling." My body was not then adorned with gold and pearl; but my ſpirit rejoiced in "the pearl of mighty price."

In about five weeks after, as I was taking, by moon light, my evening's walk of meditation, on the marble that checkered the pavement before the palace, Muley, an old black, and chief of the eunuchs of the ſeraglio, came up and accoſted me. Oſmyn, ſaid he, taking

a bundle

a bundle from under his arm, I have here a preſent for you that would make proud the greateſt emperor upon earth. It is a compleat ſuit wrought purpoſely for you by the fingers of the ſultana, as alſo by the fingers of her fair and princely ſiſters. They have heard of your great atchievements during the feſtival, and they ſend you this in reward.

So ſaying, he unfolded the robes to the moon. They were flowered with gold, pearls, and gems of ſuch a vivid luſtre as reflected her beams with tenfold brightneſs.

And what is required of me, Muley, I demanded, in return for this ineſtimable honour and bounty? Nothing, ſaid Muley, but a ſingle hour's attendance, to give them a ſhort ſketch of your life and adventures. Take back your preſents, I cried, there is poiſon and death in them; I will not betray the truſt that our maſter has repoſed in me. Nay, ſaid Muley, I affirm to you that there is no ſuch intention. Our ladies are all women of the ſevereſt chaſtity. I will undertake to conduct, and reconduct you back in ſafety. Neither can our maſter be betrayed in any degree. They all live together, they love like ſiſters, and no one keeps a ſecret from the other. However, they deſired me to tell you, that, if you are of a fearful temper, they will not inſiſt on the favour ſo much expected.

Here I felt myſelf piqued: No, Muley, I cried,

cried, I am no coward. I can dare all honeſt dangers. I will attend you. But I will not ſtay, Muley. I will let your ladies know, that, in the cauſe of honour and virtue, I can reſiſt all temptations.

I then called a diſtant ſlave, who waited my orders, and giving him the bundle, deſired him to lay it within my tent. Where now, Muley? ſaid I. I will ſhew you, ſaid Muley.

He then led me to a large bucket, wherein water was accuſtomed to be raiſed, by pulleys, to the balcony, and there to be emptied into veſſels that ſtood upon the leads.

You muſt not enter any door of the lower ſtory, ſaid Muley; for there our domeſtics inhabit, and might, probably, obſerve you. But, if you get into this bucket, in a minute or two after, I will raiſe you by the pulleys, and take you gently in.

Muley then went from me, and was admitted on ſtriking at a diſtant door; while I ſtood by the bucket, and, obſerving its firſt motion, jumped in, and was conveyed to the top of the palace.

Muley there received me in darkneſs and ſilence, and taking me by the hand, led me down by a few ſteps into a narrow apartment that was ſcarcely enlightened by a glimmering lamp. He there left me again, giving me only a whiſpering promiſe that he would quickly return. I waited for him long, however,

ever, under great impatience of getting ſpeedily back again. At length he came, and taking me by the hand, without ſpeaking a word, he led me through a long and dark entry, till, coming to a folding-door, he touched a ſpring, whereupon the door flew open on either ſide, and threw a ſudden blaze upon my dazzled eyes.

The ſaloon upon which it opened, was ſuſely illuminated, and moſt ſumptuouſly furniſhed; but my attention was quickly called from ſuch inferior objects. In the midſt a board was covered with an elegant collation. Around it were placed a great number of ſmall ſofas; and behind each ſofa ſtood a lady richly adorned, but veiled from the head to the waiſt.

Again Muley led me to the further end, while I made a low obeiſance as I paſſed the company. He then compelled me to ſtand where, by a ſmall turn of my head, I could have a full proſpect of each fair one at table. Then, as by one motion, they were all inſtantly unveiled; and again, as by one motion, they all inſtantly threw up their veils, and I had like to have fallen backward with the ſuddenneſs of the luſtre that flaſhed upon my ſpirit.

All the ladies ſmiled, and ſeemed delighted at my aſtoniſhment. The Sultana Adelaide ſat neareſt to me, on the right; and was no way diſtinguiſhed from her ſiſters, but by a ſmall

ſmall coronet of feathered diamonds that was inſerted in her lovely locks. Oſmyn, ſaid ſhe, you ſeem ſomething ſurprized; were you never in a ſeraglio before? Have you no ſeraglios in your country, Oſymn? No, Madam, I replied, we have no ſeraglio in our country; but ſure, no ſeraglio upon earth ever produced ſuch and ſo many beauties as now ſtrike my eyes. Heaven alone can exhibit ſuch a conſtellation of luminaries.

Would you not wiſh then, ſaid Adelaide, to have ſuch a ſeraglio of your own? No, Madam, I anſwered; without love, in my judgment, there can be no true enjoyment: if ever I love, it can be but the one object, and her I ſhall love with my whole heart; true love will admit of no diviſion. Here ſhe looked at me with a tenderneſs that ſunk into my ſoul, and, taking out her handkerchief, ſhe wiped away a ſwelling tear.

Another lady then demanded if we had not a woman-market, and if they were not ſlaves in my country, as they were here? No, Madam, I replied, our fair ones there are not the ſubjects of merchandiſe, but the objects of admiration. No woman in England can be bound to any lover, ſave by her own affections. There, it is death for any man to have more than one wife, and that after a ſuit, perhaps of ſeveral years. A lady there, of equal beauties to the leaſt excellent in company, would be followed by hun-

dreds of humble and ſighing adorers. In England our actions are as free as our hearts; and the ſenſibilities of mutal love, between thoſe of the ſexes who feel that tender and enchanting paſſion, conſtitute the principal happineſs of which life is capable.

Happy Engliſh women, happy Engliſh women! was echoed all around.

Alas, cried the lovely Adelaide, how very different is our fate! we are ſold, like female brutes, to any brute of a maſter. We neither love, nor are beloved; as you now have convinced me, Oſmyn. We are ſubjected to vile deſires, which we at once deteſt and ſuffer; and, when thoſe deſires are gratified, we are caſt away as common lumber, to make room for ſome new comer. Even high as I ſit here, the favoured Sultana of my Lord, I may to-morrow be appointed to the meaneſt offices in his houſehold. This, ſurely, cannot be a marriage; for, as you have intimated, Oſmyn, and as I feel in my own ſoul, marriage can only conſiſt in an union of hearts. Love cannot be bought or ſold; it is of too precious a nature; nothing can purchaſe, nothing compenſate, ſave its value in love alone.

Here they preſſed me to tell them my ſtory; and here I confeſs, to my ſhame, that, however vile I appeared in my own eyes, I was ambitious of appearing as honourable and deſerving as poſſible in the eyes of the fair Adelaide.

laide. I therefore ſuppreſſed what was black, gloſſed over what was offenſive, and enlarged on every thing that I deemed advantageous in my own character.

The night was far ſpent, by the time I concluded; and the Sultana ariſing, propoſed to ſhew me the curioſities of an adjoining cabinet. I accordingly attended her, and was aſtoniſhed at the luſtre, the richneſs, and profuſion of the jewels, as well as at the miracles of art that ſhe diſplayed before my eyes.

On our return, we perceived that our company had abſconded. Adelaide grew all crimſon, and caſt down her eyes. I alſo was confuſed, my heart began to throb, and I looked about for ſome pretence to make a quick eſcape. But—but—in ſhort, Gentlemen, neither my reſolutions, nor religion, nor honour, nor gratitude were of any avail againſt ſuch a temptation; they fell together, an eaſy victim to the all-conquering Adelaide.

Adelaide was the firſt to preſs my retreat. It was not yet day. I found Muley in waiting. We came by the way we went, I ſtepped into the bucket, and he let me gently down.

As I approached the pavement, I felt a hand behind that ſeized me violently by the ſhoulder. I ſprung out, and ſeizing the wretch by the throat, would inſtantly have plunged my poinard into his boſom; but ſome power as ſuddenly arreſted my arm, and ſaid to my heart,

Beware that thou add not murder to adultery, David!

While I hesitated, a number rushed upon me unaware, they griped me by each arm, and wresting the poinard from me, they bound my hands behind, and led me to the cells of the Imams that stood something aloof from one end of the palace.

As soon as they had brought lights, What, Osmyn! exclaimed their chief, can this be our renowned Osmyn? Is it thus that you repay the favours of your generous and kind master? You are a Christian, cried another; has your Christ then taught you to betray the confidence and trust that is reposed in you? This was a home stab; it went through my heart; but I stood in a shamefaced sullenness, and opened not my lips.

Here they went apart, and, having consulted a while, returned. Osmyn, said their chief, you are a brave and a wonderful man, and it is a pity to lose you. Your secret is yet with us; and we swear to you, by our holy prophet, and by the terrible Alla, that if you perform the single condition we enjoin, we will bury what we know in a depth below the grave, and we will recommend you to the love of Ali, and the acclamation of all the people, and we will have you loaded with preferments, and riches, and honours. Name it quickly, I cried, whatever it may be, at the risk, at the loss of

of my life, I will perform it. It is, ſaid he, no more than to abjure Chriſt, and to confeſs Mahomet, whoſe prieſts we are; and all the bleſſings of his paradiſe ſhall be ſhowered down upon you.

Here I gave a deep groan: and caſting down my head, and ſhedding a ſilent tear, without daring to lift my thoughts to heaven: No, no, I cried, though Chriſt is nothing to me, though I have no intereſt in him; though he ſpurns and has rejected me, for time, and for eternity; though I have daily denied him by every action of my life; yet my tongue ſhall never deny him. In poverty and nakedneſs, in dangers and in dungeons, in death here, and in hell hereafter, my mouth ſhall confeſs him.

Here they went apart again, and returning, told me, that I ſhould have two days to deliberate on their propoſal; but that, if I did not comply, I ſhould be impaled alive on the third morning, with all the additional tortures that art could invent.

They then put me into a covered kind of a waggon, and conveyed me to Algiers, where I was caſt into a noiſome dungeon, bolted down to the ground with irons, ſuſtained with coarſe bread and water, and not allowed a ray of light to divert my thoughts from the darkneſs and horrors of my ſituation.

Mean time I endeavoured to reinforce my reſolution, by repeating to myſelf the ſacred

promiſe, where Chriſt ſays, "Whoſoever will "confeſs me upon earth, him will I confeſs "before my Father which is in heaven." Mine indeed, ſaid I, is but a verbal confeſſion; but even that, with what I am about to ſuffer for h ſake, may ſerve to make me leſs crimina, if not acceptable, in his ſight.

I then longed to be brought to the te, while I ſhuddered at the thoughts of it. At length the day arrived. The Imams came, and once more repeated the queſtion; but I ſtil perſiſted, though in terms that were ſcarcely intelligible, for my tongue cleaved with terro to the roof of my mouth.

They then ſtripped me to theſe drawers, out of which alſo they took my money, with other valuables, and every thing I had in the world, and, having tied me to a ſledge, I was dragged to the place of execution.

The chief Imam once more aſked, if I would renounce the ſon of David? but I made him no anſwer, for I was unable to ſpeak. I had ſeen the preparations; the ſtake in the hands of the executioners; the fires kindling about me, with horrid inſtruments ready to be pu therein, for the tearing of my frying and quivering fleſh from the bones.

Could I then have had the confidence to have turned my ſoul to God, and to have beſought his aſſiſtance in that trying and terrible hour; I make no queſtion but he would have given

given me ſtrength from on high, to defy all that men or devils could do unto me: and I might now, in the regions of his bounty and his bleſſedneſs, have been pouring forth my exiſtence, in the grateful and aſtoniſhed ſenſe of his mercy to ſuch a ſinner.

But when I reflected on the writhings of Barbar, the bare ſight of which my ſpirit was not able to ſupport; when I ſaw ſuch an apparatus of additional torments; and when they took me in hand, for inſtant execution, I utterly loſt my ſenſes; I ſhrunk inward with fear; my hairs ſtood on end with horror; my tongue found ſudden utterance, and I cried, Stay, ſtay, I will ſay, I will do whatever you enjoin.

The Imam then began to pronounce a form of renunciation, which he ordered me to repeat after him; but I was ſo panting and breathleſs, that they were obliged to get a cordial for me to keep me from ſwooning.

As ſoon as my ſpirits were ſomething reſtored, the Imam again began his impious ceremony, and I make no queſtion but I ſhould have gone through it, however abhorrent to my ſoul; but, in that inſtant, we heard diſtant ſhouts and cries, as of many people; the ſound of the clamours drew nearer and nearer; and ſoon after, we ſaw numbers hurrying to and from the city. Their words became now as diſtinct as they were audible; Ali is ſlain, Ali

is

is ſlain! was all the cry; and Amurath comes in full march upon us.

Here all turned ſuddenly from me, and flying ſeveral ways, left me unbound and alone, ſitting cloſe by the ſtake. Seeing this, I began to recover from the fearful and faint condition in which I was; and, riſing, I made the beſt of my way to the port. There I ſaw a long-boat juſt about to ſet off with a number of fellows, much in my own plight, and, taking a run, I ſprung from the beach into the midſt of them.

A man then demanded in Engliſh, if I was one of the ranſomed? Yes, ranſomed, ranſomed, I cried, wonderfully ranſomed indeed; whereupon, without further queſtion, they ſet up their ſail, and, in about two hours, we reached the ſhip which the conſul had appointed to take them in.

For the remainder of that day, I continued in a ſtate that is hard to be conceived. My head and ſtomach, at times, were diſordered by ſick fits, and my ſoul hovered in an aſtoniſhed and fearful kind of doze, as one not rightly awaked from a dream of horror.

Toward evening I threw myſelf down in the hold, and ſunk into a ſtate of utter oblivion, as I had not ſlept for the three foregoing nights and days.

The day following I found my body ſomething refreſhed, but the ſituation of my mind

was

was like that of a diſturbed and tumbling ſea after a raging ſtorm. I looked around for comfort, but no comfort was near; I looked afar off for hope, but no hope came in proſpect. The ſenſe of exiſtence became a miſery under which I was not able to bear up; and could I have had my wiſh, creation would again have been uncreated.

During the whole of our voyage, I continued very nearly in this diſtemper of ſpirit. For though at times I would enter into the frolics and jovial humours of the crew, yet my merriment, at ſuch ſeaſons, was a merriment to madneſs; and I would again ſink, precipitately, into a depth of deſpondence, whoſe darkneſs would admit no ray of conſolation.

The tempter would then urge me, by dagger, or by drowning, or by any means, to get rid of a being, that only ſerved to torment me. But again, the dread that I might not get rid of that being, and that death might plunge me into a perpetuity of thoſe pangs in which I ſaw the wretched Barbar agonizing, this deterred me from haſtening the day of my horrid doom, and ſo I waited in a gloomy and "fearful look-"ing out for judgment."

I would then call myſelf, at dead of night, before that terrible judgment. Thou fiend David, I would ſay, wherefore art thou ſunk in guilt above all that ever were guilty? It was thy fortune to get three good and kind maſters,

ſters, good and kind above thy wants, and even up to thy wiſhes; and all theſe thou haſt deceived, thou haſt ſpoiled and betrayed them. Even the Maſter of all maſters, the Maſter who gave my freedom in the midſt of my captivity, I was on the brink of denying the Jeſus also; nay, I did reject, I did deny him; I promiſed, I engaged, to reject and deny him; and he will reject thee; through time, and through eternity, he will deny thee, David!

One evening a fearful tempeſt aroſe; and while moſt of the crew gave ſome of their little matters to the provedore for liquors, and ſat, drowning the ſenſe of danger, and profanely carouſing, at one end of the ſhip; my companions, who are preſent, were praying or ſinging glory to God in the other. Both parties invited me to join them, but I refuſed to be partaker with either; for I could not ſhare in others that wickedneſs which I condemned and deteſted in myſelf; and I could not think of taking into my execrable mouth the ſacred name of that Chriſt to whom I had ſo lately turned a falſe apoſtate. In the mean time, I held myſelf as the refugee Jonas, whoſe crimes brought perdition on all in the veſſel; and I was on the point of adviſing the mariners to caſt me out.

At length the tempeſt abated, but my perturbations did not abate. I wiſhed to repent, but I deemed myſelf paſt the poſſibility of repentance;

pentance; and thus I continued in a ſtate of diſſatisfaction and enmity againſt myſelf, againſt my God, againſt man and woman kind.

As ſoon as he had cloſed his ſtory, Take courage and comfort to you, David, ſaid Mr Fenton. Your caſe is not near ſo deſperate as your conſcientious fears have formed it. Your error lay in truſting to your own ſenſe of duty, and to the ſtrength of your own powers for reſiſting temptation; and the beſt man that ever breathed, with no better a dependence, muſt inevitably have fallen, as you did, David. You now know your own weakneſs; you are taught, by repeated experience, that, in or of yourſelf, you no more can ſtand againſt the enemies of your ſoul, when they aſſail you, than a tree ſevered from its root, and barely ſet on end, can ſtand the aſſaults of a coming tempeſt. Keep therefore to your root, David. Never dare, in your own ſtrength, to oppoſe yourſelf to a reed. Apply to the Rock, my friend, from whence you were hewn. Cling to him, repoſe upon him, put your whole confidence in him; and then your weakneſs ſhall become ſtronger than an army with banners; and neither life, nor death, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things preſent, nor things to come, ſhall be able to ſeparate you from the love of God which is in Chriſt Jeſus.

While I ſpoke, his eyes began to gliſten, the cloud of his countenance cleared, his aſpect aſſumed

aſſumed a chearful ſerenity, he could ſcarce have been known for the ſame perſon; and he cried, I will, I will once more ſeek to my God; do you, my maſter, pray him to permit my approach; and in life, or in death, I never will let go my hold of him any more. He then would again have caſt himſelf at my feet, but I haſtened to prevent him.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

The History of our HERO continued, from the end of Vol. III.

IN little more than a month, Harry made himself perfect master of the system of the British constitution, and wrote comments upon it much more voluminous than the text.

As he had lost his friend Ned, who was now under the tutelage of his uncle, Mr Catharines, little Dicky Clement became the principal companion of his hours of amusement, and Dicky with his good will would never be from his heels.

One morning as they strolled up the road, some distance from the town, Harry observed a crowd gathering fast on the way, and hastened, like others, to see what was the matter.

As soon as he arrived, he perceived Mr Gripe the constable at the head of the posse, with his painted staff of authority exalted in his hand. Pray, what are you about, Mr Constable? says Harry. I am going, Sir, to seize a robber, who has taken shelter in yonder waste hovel.——And whom did he rob?—He robbed Mr Niggards here, that is to say, his boy here, of a six-penny loaf. Perhaps the man

was hungry, ſaid Harry, and had not where-withal to buy one. Pray tell me, my lad, how the affair was.

Why, Maſter, you muſt know as how Mr. Niggards, my maſter here, ſent me this morning to the town with a ſhilling, to buy ten ſixpenny-loaves. So, as I was coming back, I met an able looking man, who made me afraid with his pale and meagre face. My good boy, ſays he, will you give me one of those loaves in charity? I dare not, Sir, ſays I, they are none of my own. Here, ſays he, I will give you my hat for one of them; but this I refuſed, as his hat, to my thinking, was not worth a groat. Nay, ſays he, I muſt have one of the loaves, that is certain, for I have a wife and ſeven children all ſtarving in yonder hovel, and, while there is bread in the world, I cannot but ſnatch a morſel for them. So, as I told you, I was frighted. I gave him one of the loaves without any more words, and away he run as faſt as his legs could carry him; but I followed him with my eye till I ſaw him ſafe lodged.

Here Harry wiped his eye, and mused a while. Tell me truly now, my good boy, continued he, if both thoſe loaves had been your own, would you willingly have given one of them, to keep the poor man and his family from periſhing?

I would, Sir, ſaid the lad, with a very good will.

will. And had I a ſixpence of my own, I would have gone back with all my heart, and have bought another loaf. But my maſter is a hard man, and ſo I was forced to tell him the truth.

Here, my lad, ſays Harry, here is a crown. Go back, buy two loaves for your maſter, in place of the one he has loſt, and keep the remaining four ſhillings to yourſelf for your trouble. You ſee, Mr Conſtable, continued he, you never can make any thing like felony of this matter. The boy confeſſes that he gave the bread with a very good will, and that he would not have informed, had it not been for fear of his maſter.

It is very true, pleaſe your honour, replied Mr Gripe, I myſelf do pity the poor man from my heart, and will have nothing more to ſay in this buſineſs.

Stay a while, ſays Harry, perhaps we may find ſome further employment for you. I think I ſhould know the face of yonder man. Is not that the Niggards whom you had in cuſtody the other day, and for whoſe deliverance I paid five and twenty pounds to his creditors? The very man, Sir, ſays Gripe.

Harry then put his hand in his pocket, and taking out a ſmall ſcrip of parchment, exclaimed, I am glad of what you tell me with all my heart! Indeed, I did not like the looks of the man at the time, and that made me ac-

cept an assignment of this action. Here, Mr Gripe, take your prisoner again into custody in my name Away with him to goal directly: as the holy gospel has it: "He shall not de-"part thence till he has paid the utmost far-"thing." No, no, Mr Niggards, I will not hear a word. Go and learn henceforward to be merciful yourself, if you would look for any mercy from God or man.

Dicky, my dear, go back again, says Harry, our neighbour Joseph here will see you safe home. I will not suffer any one to go in my company, for fear of putting the poor man or his family to shame.

Harry had not advanced fifty paces toward the hovel, when his ears were struck with the sound of sudden and joint lamentation; and turning, he perceived that the inquisitive crowd had gathered at his heels. My friends, says he, I entreat, I beseech you to leave me for the present. I would not chuse any witnesses to what I am about. Pray oblige me so far as to depart on your own occasions.

Hereupon, being loth to offend him, they retired a few steps, and stood together aloof, attentive to the event of this uncommon adventure.

Mean while the cry continued with a bitterness that thrilled through every nerve of our hero; and as he now approached the place, he did his utmost to restrain himself, and quell the

the feelings within him, and he drew his hat over his eyes, to prevent the parties from seeing the emotion that they caused.

The hovel was of mud-walls, without any roofing; but, as there was an opening where a door had once been, Harry stole to the entrance, casting an under eye of observation about him.

Hereupon a woman turned. She had been fearfully peering over the wall at the crowd which had not yet dispersed; but having notice of Harry's entrance, she looked toward him, and dropped on her knees.

O, Sir, she cried, if you are the gentleman who owned the loaf, for Christ his sake I pray you to have mercy upon us! Money, indeed, we have not, but we have these shreds remaining, and we will strip ourselves of our covering to make you a recompence. Alas! alas! could we have guessed how my husband came by it, we would have famished a thousand times rather than touch a morsel. But he, dear good man, did it all for our sakes, for the sake of the heavy burden with which he is overladen. Ah, I would to heaven we were all dead, hanged, or drowned out of his way. He might then walk the world at large, and be happy, as he deserves.

Here again she set up her wailing, which was accompanied by her seven children, in such a woful concert, as the heart of Harry

could not ſuſtain, neither ſuffer him, for a ſeaſon, to interrupt or appeaſe.

At length he ſaid, with a faltering voice, Pray be not alarmed, Madam, for I diſcern that you are a gentlewoman, though in a very unhappy diſguiſe. The affair of the loaf is ſettled to your ſatisfaction; and here are ten guineas, it is all that I have about me, and it is only to ſhew you, for the preſent, that you are not quite ſo friendleſs in the world as you thought. Mean time I requeſt that you will all come with me to Hampſtead, where we will try to do ſomething better for you.

Here the woman looked with an earneſt and eager rapture at him. May Jeſus Chriſt, ſhe cried, be your portion, fair angel; and he is already your portion, he is ſeen in your ſweet face, and breaks out at your eyes in pity to poor ſinners.

Harry was now ſtepping forth, and the reſt prepared to follow him; when the poor man, who, for ſhame, had not yet uttered a ſyllable, gently ſtaid him at the opening. Turn, generous maſter, ſaid he; pray turn, and hear a ſmall apology for my tranſgreſſion. I am a very unhappy man, I have ſeen better times; but I am driven by cruel uſage, from home and home, and maintenance. I was going to London to apply to the law for relief, when my youngeſt child, who was on the breaſt, fell deſperately ſick about four days ago.

had no money to hire lodging, and had begged the means of life for the two foregoing days, we were compelled to take up with this ſhelterleſs hovel. From hence I frequented the road, and for the three laſt days begged as much as ſuſtained us in coarſe bread and water. But this morning my boy died, and his brothers and I, with our ſticks and our hands, dug his grave that you ſee yonder, and I placed that flag over him to preſerve his tender limbs from the pigs and the hounds; till it may pleaſe Heaven to allow me means to bury him according to the holy rites of our church. This melancholy office, Sir, detained me ſo long, and exerciſe had made the appetites of my children ſo outrageous, that I was in a manner compelled to do what I did. As I had no coffin nor winding-ſheet, I took the waiſtcoat from my body, and wrapped it about my babe; and would willingly have wrapped him with my fleſh and my bones, that we might quietly have lain in one grave together.

Harry anſwered not a word, but walking onward before his company, plentifully watered the ground with his tears as he paſſed, while the poor man took his youngeſt ſon in his arms, and the woman her youngeſt daughter on her back, and thus, with a leiſurely pace, they all arrived at Mr Fenton's.

The door being opened, Harry led his nine gueſts to the back-parlour, where he inſtantly ordered

ordered plenty of bread and butter, and milk for the children, with cold meat, ale, and cakes, for the father and mother: and this was a matter too cuſtomary in this houſe to be any cauſe of wonder to any member of the family.

As ſoon as they were refreſhed, he took them all to his wardrobe, where he conſtrained the parents to take of the very beſt things for themſelves and their children; and having ſo done, he walked out, and left them to dreſs.

Mr Fenton was in his ſtudy, and had juſt finiſhed a letter as Harry entered with a ſmiling countenance. I have been very lucky this morning, Sir, ſays he: I think I have got the prettieſt family of boys and girls that is to be found within five ſhires. Do you know any thing about them, Harry? Nothing further as yet, Sir, than that they and their parents are exceeding poor, and have fallen, as they ſay, into great misfortunes. The mother is a very handſome and genteel young woman, and the father a portly and very comely man, ſave that he has a large purple mark on the left ſide of his face. A purple-mark! cried Mr Fenton, and ſtarted. Go, my dear, and bring that man to me directly. Why, pray, Sir, do you know him? No, my love, I ſhould not know him though he ſtood before me; but I would give a thouſand pounds that he may

prove

prove the man I mean, and that I ſhall diſcover on a ſhort examination.

By this time, the father of our new family was dreſſed, and Harry took him by the hand, bid him be of good courage, and led him in to his uncle. He bowed twice, and with an awful and timid reſpect, while Mr Fenton roſe and looked earneſtly at him. I rejoice, Sir, ſays he, to find that my ſon here has been of ſome little matter of uſe to you and your family. Pray take a ſeat nearer to me, Sir, if you pleaſe. He tells me you have met with misfortunes; I alſo have had my ſhare. I think myſelf nearly of kin to the unhappy; and you will ſingularly oblige me by as much of your ſtory as you ſhall pleaſe to communicate. I am intereſted in it.

I have nothing to conceal from your Honour, anſwered the ſtranger. And I ſhall willingly give you an open and faithful narrative of my ſhort but ſad hiſtory.

My name is Giffard Homely. My father was a farmer in eaſy circumſtances near Stratford. He bound me apprentice to a tanner, and when my time was out, gave me a hundred and twenty pounds to ſet me up in my buſineſs. But, dying ſoon after, he bequeathed the bulk of his ſubſtance to my elder brother.

Though my brother was a ſpendthrift, yet I loved him dearly; and when his creditors fell upon him, I became his bail for two hundred pounds.

pounds. Within a few months after he suddenly disappeared, and I never could learn further tidings concerning him.

A writ was thereupon marked against me, and put into the hands of bailiffs. But liberty was precious. I left all my substance to the possession of my pursuers, and passing at a great rate, I escaped into Lincolnshire.

There I joined myself to Anthony Granger the tanner. Independent of his trade, he held a very beautiful and well-parked farm under Mr Spranger Thornhill, the lord of the manor. And, as I served him with great zeal, affection, and application, his affairs prospered under my hands.

He had an only child, a very lovely girl of about ten years of age; her manners, like her countenance, were extremely engaging; and I took vast delight, at all leisure hours, in teaching her to read and write, and in diverting her with a variety of little plays and amusements.

I had no intention, at that time, of gaining her young heart, but that happened to prove the miserable consequence; and a heavy price it is that my poor dear girl has since paid for her affection.

Year after year she now grew in stature, but much more in loveliness, at least in my eyes; and yet I flattered myself, that I affected her merely for her own sake. I used to please myself

ſelf with the proſpect of her being advanced to high fortune: and I thought that I wou'd willingly have given her up at the altar to ſome lord of the land.

One twelfth night a parcel of young folks of us were diverting ourſelves about the fire with ſeveral paſtimes; and among the reſt the play was introduced of, *I love my love with an A because ſhe is amiable*, and ſo on through the alphabet.

When it came to my Peggy's turn, ſhe ſaid, I love my love with an *H*, becauſe he is very *honeſt*, and I never will hate him for his being *homely*. And this might have paſſed without any obſervation, had ſhe not caſt a glance at me and bluſhed exceedingly, which threw me alſo into equal confuſion.

As this was the firſt diſcovery that I made of her affection, it alſo ſerved to open my eyes to the ſtrength of my own paſſion; and this coſt me many a ſleepleſs night and aching heart. I did not look upon myſelf as a ſufficient match for her; I reflected, that it would be very ungenerous to leſſen the fortune or happineſs of the girl that I loved; and I reſolved a hundred times to quit the country, that my abſence might cure both her and myſelf of our fooliſh fondneſs for each other. But tho' this was what my reaſon ſtill prompted and approved, my heart ſtill held me back, as it

were,

were, for a while longer, when I was on the brink of departure.

Peggy was juſt arrived to her fifteenth year, on the 24th of April, and was elected by the neighbours to be queen of the following May, and to deliver the prizes to the victors at the wake.

I had made a vow within myſelf, to forſake her and the country, the very day after her regency: but, in the mean while, I could not reſiſt the temptation of ſhewing my addreſs before the queen of my wiſhes.

Accordingly, on that day, I entered the liſts among the other young candidates. But I will not burden your Honour with a particular detail of our inſignificant conteſts. You have unqueſtionably been witneſs to the like on ſeveral occaſions.

It will be ſufficient to inform you, that as I had the fortune to get the better at the race, and at wreſtling, when I ſucceſſively went to receive the reſpective prizes, my Peggy's eyes danced, and her feet went pit-a-pat with joy as I approached her.

Cudgels came next in play, and a little ſtage of boards was erected for the purpoſe, that the ſpectators might ſee with the better advantage. I had long learned this art from a famous maſter in Stratford; and, as I was confident of my ſuperiority, I hurt my rival as little

little as poſſible, only juſt ſufficient to make them acknowledge that they were foiled.

At length one Hector Pluck, a butcher, mounted the ſtage. He had, it ſeems, been quite an adept at this ſport, and, for ten foregoing years, had carried off the prize in ſeveral neighbouring ſhires, but he was now come to ſettle near Lincoln, and was to have been married the following day to a farmer's daughter, who was one of the fair ſpectators at the wake.

The moment he aſſailed me, I perceived that his paſſions were up, and that his eye was a plain interpreter of the deadlineſs of his heart. He fought cautiouſly however, and kept on a watchful reſerve; and we had long attacked and defended, without any advantage on either part, when, with a motion and fury quick as lightning, he made a ſide-ſtroke at me, and aimed to cut me acroſs the face with the point of his ſtick. This was a blow which I had not time to intercept, or even to ſee. The villain, however, happily miſſed of his intention; for his cudgel being ſomething advanced, only bruiſed my right cheek, when inſtantly I gave him an exaſperated ſtroke on the head, and cutting him to the ſkull, laid him ſprawling on the ſtage, whereat all who knew me gave a great ſhout.

After ſome time he roſe, and advancing a little toward me, he ſtretched out his left hand,

as if in token of reconciliation; while pulling out his butcher's knife from a ſheath in his ſide-pocket, he, with his right hand, made a ſtab at my heart, and ſuddenly leaping off the ſtage, attempted to eſcape.

Immediately the blood poured from me in a ſtream, and ran along the boards. I found myſelf growing weak, and ſitting down on the ſtage, I had the preſence of mind to open my boſom, and taking out my handkerchief, held it to the wound.

In the mean time the whole concourſe was in an uproar. The cry went about, that Giffard Homely was murdered, Giffard Homely was killed. My poor dear Peggy fell ſenſeleſs from her throne, and was carried home in the fit. Several horſemen haſted away, of their own accord, for a ſurgeon; and the butcher was purſued, knocked down, hard pinioned and conveyed, with following curſes, to the gaol of Lincoln.

Among others who came to condole with me, little Maſter Billy Thornhill, our landlord's ſon and heir, came running, and deſired to be lifted upon the ſtage.

As ſoon as he ſaw the blood, and how weak and pale I looked, he broke out into a paſſionate fit of tears; O Giffard, my Giffard, my poor Giffard, he cried, I fear you are a dead man! You will no more be my holiday-companion, Giffard. Never more will you go a-birding

birding with me, or set gins for the rabbits, or catch little fishes for me; or carry me on your back through the water, or in your arms over the mire. Alac! alac! what shall I do if I lose you, my poor Giffard!

The surgeon came at full gallop. As soon as he had seen the greatness of the gash, Say your last prayer, my friend, he cried; in a very few minutes you must be a dead man. But when he had probed the wound, his face turned to chearfulness. A most wonderful escape, he cried; the weapon has missed your vitals, and only glanced along the rib. Be of good courage; I engage, in a few weeks, to set you once more upon your legs.

Mean time my loving neighbours made a litter and bed for me of the tents and tent-poles, all striving who should carry me, and all escorting me home.

The good Mr Granger had been that day confined by a sprain in his ancle, and now sat weeping by his child, who fell out of one fainting fit into another, till she was told that I was brought home, and that the doctor had pronounced me out of danger.

As soon as I was put to bed, and my kind attendants withdrawn, Mr Granger, on a crutch, came limping, and sat down by me. He had endeavoured to restrain his tears before the crowd; but as soon as he was seated, they broke out anew.

O Giffard, Giffard, he cried; my dear Peggy is very ill, and you are very ill; and to lose you both at once would be hard upon me indeed!

Notwithstanding a short fever, the doctor happened to keep his promise, with the assistance of youth and a good habit, and I began to gather strength and recover apace.

As soon as I was up and about, I observed, that Miss Peggy seemed no longer desirous of restraining her kind looks, or her kind offices, and this gave me some concern, till I also observed that her father took no umbrage or no notice of it.

One evening, as we sat over a tankard of October, Giffard, says he bluntly, what would you think of my Peggy for a wife? Nothing at all, Sir, says I. I would not marry your daughter, if she would have me to-morrow. Pray why so, Giffard? Peggy is very pretty and deserving, as I think, of as good a man as you. Her deservings, Sir, said I, are my very objection; I scarce know a man in the land who is deserving of her. If that is the case, Giffard, her hand is at your service, with all my heart. O, Sir, I replied, I have no suitable fortune; but know you are pleased to banter; I am no match for her. You are an industrious and a making young man, said he; and such a one is richer, in my eye, than a spender with thousands. Beside, you are loving and good-

natured,

natured, my ſon; and I ſhall not loſe my child by you, but gain another child in you as dear to me as herſelf.

Here I was ſo tranſported, ſo overpowered by the kindneſs of the dear good man, that I could not get out a ſyllable, but, ſinking before him, I eagerly graſped his legs, and then his knees, and riſing, went out to vent my paſſion.

In about a month after, Sir Spranger Thornhill, and my young friend Maſter William, honoured our nuptials with their preſence; and all our kind neighbours came crowding to the ſolemnity, and, by their joy, appeared to be parties in our union.

For eight following years never was known a happier family. But about that time Sir Spranger Thornhill ſickened and died, and was attended to the dark manſion of the bodies of his anceſtors, by the greateſt concourſe of true mourners that ever was ſeen in the ſhire, all lamenting that goodneſs was not exempted from mortality.

Our dear father could never be ſaid to hold up his head from that day. He ſilently pined after his old friend and patron, Sir Spranger; and all our cares and careſſes were not able to with-hold him from following the ſame appointed track.

Never, ſure, was grief like mine and my Peggy's. In looking at each other we ſaw the loſs that we had ſuſtained; and, while we lay

arm in arm, often, often have we watered the good man's memory with our tears.

Time, however, who has many ſevere ſorrows in proſpect, helps to ſoften and leſſen thoſe that he brings in his train. An increaſing family of children, ſweetly tempered like their mother, called for all my concern; and our young landlord, Sir William, whenever he came from college, uſed to make our houſe his home, and take me with him where ever he went, till Lord Lechmore, his guardian, took him from the univerſity, and ſent him abroad, with a tutor and ſervants, on his travels.

As I had made conſiderable ſavings, and now looked to have a number of children to provide for, I reſolved to realize all that I could for the poor things; ſo I built a malt-houſe and windmill, and planted a large orchard, with other profitable improvements, that coſt me to the amount of about eight hundred pounds.

While theſe things were in agitation, Sir Freeſtone Hardgrave, one of the knights for our ſhire, came into that part of the country. He had lately purchaſed a fine eſtate, adjoining to the weſt ſide of my concern; and was a man of vaſt opulence, but a ſtranger among us at that time.

Though Sir Freeſtone was an old bachelor, and had one of the moſt remorſeleſs hearts that ever informed the ſhape of man, he had yet

yet a pleasing aspect, and insinuating address, and always applied those qualities to the purpose of betraying. Alas! I was informed, but too late, of his character; that his avarice outgrew even the growth of his wealth; and that his desires increased in exact proportion, as age happened to deduct from his ability to gratify them.

Unhappily he cast a greedy eye at my little farm. Like another lordly Ahab, he coveted the vineyard of poor Naboth; and, at length, compassed his ends by means equally iniquitous.

When he proposed to give me more than value for it, I answered, that I myself had taken a fancy to it, for the sake of the dear man who had given it to me, in trust for his child and her posterity? and that I would not part with it for twenty times an equivalent. With this, however, he did not appear in the least disconcerted; but said, that he esteemed and affected me the more for my gratitude to the memory of my old benefactor.

I was afterwards told, and learned by dear experience, that he never pardoned an offence, nor even a disappointment; but nothing of this disposition appeared for the present. He visited, made it his business to meet me in several places; sought and seemed quite desirous of cultivating an acquaintance with me; did me many little friendly offices among

my

my richer neighbours; condeſcended to toy with my little ones; appeared to take a huge liking to my two eldeſt boys; ſtood god father to my little girl that is now in her mother's arms; ſaid, he wondered how I contrived it to maintain ſo numerous a family upon ſuch ſlender means; and promiſed to procure me a beneficial poſt in the collection of the cuſtoms.

After a courſe of ſuch ſpecious kindneſs, and while my heart glowed with gratitude in the recollection of his favours both paſt and propoſed, he came to my houſe in a mighty hurry. My dear Homely, ſays he, I have juſt ſtruck up a moſt advantageous bargain with our neighbour Squire Spendall. But he wants the money immediately. I have not the whole about me: and yet if I do not pay him down directly, ſome curſed diſappointment may intervene. Do run and bring me all that you have quickly. I will repay you within two or three days at fartheſt.

Here I haſted, with joy, to the corner where I had depoſited my caſh, as well for payment of rent as another little matter that I had in my eye; and bringing out a leathern bag, I laid it on the table. There, Sir, ſaid I, are two hundred and thirty guineas; take but the trouble to count them out, and give me a ſhort acknowledgment. No, ſaid he, my dear Homely, never heed it for the preſent, I will be back with you the moment I have paid the purchaſe;

purchaſe; and ſo ſaying, he caught up the bag, and huddled away as faſt as his old legs could ſcamper; while I ſat ſtill through aſtoniſhment, my heart miſgiving me at the time, as if it foreboded the miſchiefs that were to follow.

I waited, with great anxiety, for his return till evening, when, haſtening to his lodge, I was there informed, that he had ſet out for London five hours before. This threw me into a panic, though not altogether without a mixture of hope, and ſo I waited till the three days of his promiſe ſhould expire. Mr Snack then came to me, and demanded the rent. He was a Lincoln attorney, whom Lord Lechmore had lately preferred to the care of my landlord's concerns, upon the death of Mr Kindly, the good old agent. I told him ingenuouſly how matters had happened, and ſaid I would hurry to London, and bring back the money directly.

Accordingly I poſted away, and reſted not till I arrived at the great city. There, for ſeven days ſucceſſively, I beſieged the doors of Sir Freeſtone, hourly knocking and requeſting to be admitted to his preſence. But he was either not up, or juſt gone out, or had company with him, or was juſt then very buſy, and not to be ſpoken to, and ſo forth.

At length, when he found that I would not quit his houſe without an anſwer, he ordered

me

me before him. His chariot waited at the gate, and he ſtood dreſſed in the hall. As I approached, and bowed with the reſpect and mortified air of a petitioner, he put on a look of the moſt ſtrange and audacious effrontery I ever beheld. Who are you, friend, ſaid he; and what may your buſineſs be with me? I am come, and it pleaſe your Honour, humbly to tell you, that I am called upon for my rent; and to beſeech your Honour to reſtore me the two hundred and thirty pieces you had from me the other day. Here, ſays he to his ſervants, this muſt be ſome deſperado, who is come to rob me in broad day, and in the middle of my own people: the fellow ſays I owe him money; I know not that I ever ſaw his face before; I deſire that you will not ſuffer ſuch a dangerous villain to enter my doors any more. And ſo ſaying, out he ſtepped, and away he drove.

O, Sir, how I was ſtruck to the heart at that inſtant! I ſneaked out, ſcarce half alive, not remembering where I was, or whither I was to go. Alas! I was far from making the ſpeed back again that I had done in going. I knew not how to ſhew my face to my Peggy, or her dear little ones, whom I had plundered and ſtripped of their ſubſtance, by ſtupidly ſurrendering it without witneſſes, or a ſingle line whereby I might reclaim it. At length I got home, if home it might be called, that had

had then nothing in it, or at leaſt nothing for me.

Mr Snack had taken the advantage of my abſence, to poſſeſs himſelf of my farm, and of all that I was worth. Under colour of diſtraining for rent, he had ſeized every thing, even the beds whereon my wife and children lay, with all their wearing apparel, ſave what they had on their backs. The bill of appraiſement, which I have here, comes to upward of ſix hundred pounds. But, when the cattle and other effects were ſet up to ſale, the auctioneer and bidders proved of Mr Snack's providing; all were intimidated from offering any thing, ſave thoſe who offered in truſt for this charitable agent, and the whole of my ſubſtance went off within the value of one year's rent, being one hundred and eighty-five pounds.

Never, exclaimed Mr Fenton, never did I hear of ſo barefaced and daring a violation of all laws divine and human, and that too under ſanction of the moſt perfect ſyſtem of law that ever was framed. But what will not power effect, when unreſtrained by conſcience, when prompted by avarice, and abbetted by cunning! And is there no remedy, Sir? cried out our hero. None that I know of, my Harry, ſave where power oppoſes power in favour of weakneſs, or wealth oppoſes wealth in favour of poverty.

But we will ſee what may be done. Mean while

while let Mr Homely proceed in his narrative.

When my family, continued *Homely*, were thus turned out of doors, an old follower made way for them in his own cottage, and retired with his wife and daughter to a cow-house hard by. Mean while my loving neighbours supplied them with sufficient bedding, and daily kept them in victuals, even more than they could eat.

While I went slowly to see them, stopping and turning every minute toward our old habitation, all the horrors of our situation flew upbraidingly in my face, and I accused myself as the robber and murderer of eight persons, for any one of whom I would have spent my life.

When I stooped to enter their lowly roof, all trembling and sick at heart, I expected to meet nothing but faces of aversion, and expressions of reproach; but, when they all set up a shout of joy at my appearance, when they all crowded clasping and clinging about me, the violence and distraction of my inward emotion deprived me of sensation, and I swooned away.

When I revived, I cast a look about me, and perceived that their grief had been as extreme, as their joy was at my arrival. Ah, my Peggy, I cried, how have I undone you! you I got all my possessions, and, in return,

I have

I have deprived you of all that you poſſeſſed. You were every bleſſing to me, and I have repaid you with nothing but miſery and ruin.

Do not be concerned, my love, ſays ſhe, nor repine at the conſequences of your own goodneſs and honeſty. You are not as God to ſee into all hearts; the wiſeſt may be deceived; and the beſt, as I believe, are the moſt ſubject to be impoſed upon. Common charity muſt have ſuppoſed, that there could not be ſuch a ſoul as Sir Freeſtone upon earth. But be of good courage, my huſband, I have good news for you; I dreamed that our dear father appeared to me laſt night: Do not be diſheartened, my child, ſays he; bear the croſs that is laid upon you with a chearful and free will, and all ſhall be reſtored to you ſevenfold upon earth, and ſeventy-ſeven fold in the life that has no ending.

When I found that my Peggy, inſtead of diſtaſte and upbraiding, had nothing but love in her looks, and conſolation in her expreſſions, I folded her to my boſom, and to my ſoul that went to meet her, and I would willingly have made her one with my own being.

My neighbours were not as birds of the ſeaſon; they neither deſpiſed nor forſook me becauſe of my poverty; they came crowding to condole with me; they adviſed me to apply to the law againſt Sir Freeſtone and attorney Snack; and they offered to contribute towards

my journey; they alſo joined in this written teſtimony of my character, and proſperous circumſtances, before Snack made his ſeizure; and two of them have witneſſed, in this bit of paper, that when the alarm came of Mr Kindly's death, and of a ſtrange agent being put in his room, they heard me ſay that I did not matter the worſt he could do, and ſaw me count down twenty pieces over and above my year's rent.

The late frights and fatigues which Peggy underwent during Snack's operations, together with her extremes of joy on my return, and of grief at the fit into which I had fallen, haſtened on her labour, and ſhe was delivered before her time of that weakly little babe whom I buried this morning.

Within ſix weeks after her childbirth we prepared for our journey. Our neighbours, like the good Samaritan, had compaſſion upon him who fell among the thieves. They made me up a purſe of thirty-five pounds, and promiſed to contribute further toward the carrying on of my ſuit.

We travelled happily, by eaſy journeys of a few miles a day, till, nine days ago, we reached a ſmall village the other ſide of St Alban's; there we took up our reſt for the night, at a houſe that had no ſign, but let occaſional lodgings, and ſold bread and ſmall beer.

As I deſired a ſeparate apartment for our-

ſelves,

ſelves, we were put into a kind of waſte room, that had no faſtening to the door except a latch. After a ſlender ſupper we lay down to ſleep, and I ſtuffed my breeches cloſe under my head with all poſſible caution. We had made an extraordinary journey that day, and I was particularly fatigued by carrying ſeveral of my tired children ſucceſſively in my arms; ſo that we all ſlept but too ſoundly, and when I awoke in the morning, neither money nor breeches were to be found.

Such a loſs, at another time, would have been as nothing to me; but in our preſent circumſtances, it was a repetition and doubling of all that we had loſt before. I inſtantly ſummoned the people of the houſe, and in a good deal of warmth, charged our landlord with the felony, telling him that I had been robbed of above thirty-three pounds. Why, Maſter, ſays he, I know nothing to the contrary; but it would be very hard indeed, if I was to be anſwerable for the honeſty of every one who goes this road. If you had given your money in charge to me, I would have been accountable for it. I believe, by the grief you are in, that you muſt have been loſers: I will therefore forgive you your reckoning, and give you a pair of breeches of my own into the bargain; but this is all I will do, till the law forces me.

As there was no remedy, at leaſt for the preſent, I accepted his overture, and ſet out. But,

O Sir! it is impoſſible to deſcribe the horrors of my ſoul as I ſilently ſtepped along, caſting an eye of mingled pity and deſpair upon my children. I curſed in ſecret my own exiſtence, and wiſhed for ſome ſudden thunderbolt to cruſh me into nothing. All truſt in God, or his providence, had now wholly forſaken me, and I looked upon him as neglecting all other objects of his wrath, and exerting his omnipotence againſt me and mine alone.

Peggy, as I ſuppoſe, perceived how it was with me, and kept behind a while, that ſhe might give way to the preſent tumult and diſtemper of my mind; at length, hoping to adminiſter ſome matter of comfort to me, ſhe came up, and ſilently put a few ſhillings into my hand, ſaying, Courage, my dear huſband, all cannot be loſt while we have a God who is infinitely rich to depend upon. Ay, ſaid I, theſe are the fruits of your dreams, theſe are your promiſed bleſſings that heaven had in ſtore for us. And ſtill has in ſtore, ſhe replied; the ſame hand that holds the rod, holds the comforting ſtaff alſo. Tell me not of comfort, I cried, I ſee that the face of God is ſet in blackneſs and blaſting againſt me. But, for me, it matters not, had he not taken me at an advantage. He ſees that I have eight lives, all dearer than my own, and he is determined to kill me in every one of them.

Do not caſt from you, my love, ſhe ſaid, the only crutch that the world and the wretched have to reſt upon. God is pleaſed, perhaps, to take all human means from us, that he may ſhew forth the wonders of his power in our relief. While any other hope is left, we are apt to truſt to that hope, and we look not toward the ſecret hand by which we are fed and ſupported: but when all is loſt, all gone, when no other ſtay is left, ſhould ſudden mercy come upon us, our Comforter then becomes viſible, he ſtands revealed in his greatneſs and glory before us, and we are compelled to cry out, with unbelieving Thomas, My Lord and my God!

Though theſe pious expoſtulations of my dearly beloved preacher, had little influence, at the time, for appeaſing my own paſſions, I was yet pleaſed that my Peggy had her ſecret conſolations, but little imagined that her prophecy approached ſo near to its completion.

For two days we held on, living on ſuch bread and milk as we could purchaſe at the cottages that had the charity to receive us. But my boy who was on the breaſt, grew exceeding ſick; ſo we were obliged to ſhorten our journeys for the two ſucceeding days, partly begging, and partly paying for ſuch victuals as we could procure. Toward evening we came within ſight of this town. Our little money was quite exhauſted, and our child

grown to ill to bear further travel; ſo I looked about, and perceived ſome roofleſs walls that ſtood off from the highway, and thither we turned and took up our bleak abode.

For the three following days I frequented the road, and by begging, procured what ſcantily kept my family from periſhing. Meantime my ſpirit was tamed and ſubdued by the habit of mortification, and I looked up to heaven, and cried, Pardon, pardon, O my God! the offences and blaſphemies of my murmurings againſt you! You formerly bleſſed me with an over-abundance of bleſſings, and that too for a long ſeaſon; and, as Job juſtly ſays, Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and ſhall we not receive evil?—O Friend, and Saviour of ſinners! if thou loveſt whom thou chaſteneſt, and receiveſt thoſe whom thou doſt ſcourge, when death ſhall have put a period to the ſufferings of mortality, may I not humbly look to find grace at the footſtool of the throne of thy mercy?

At length our child died this morning, and we buried him in our hovel, and watered his grave with the tears that we ſhed for him, and for each other. The reſt, Sir, you know, till this angel of God was ſent to accompliſh the prediction of my Peggy in all its fulneſs.

Here Homely concluded; and after a pauſe and a deep ſigh, Mr Fenton demanded, Have you told me the whole of your hiſtory, Mr Homely?

Homely? I have, ſo pleaſe your Honour, through every particular of any ſignification. —I am ſorry for it. Pray think again. Did you never meet with any adventure that is yet unrecited? Did you never ſave any perſon at your own peril?——No, Sir,——O, now I recollect.

Some two or three and twenty years ago, as I fled from the bailiffs who purſued me, as I told you, for the bail of my brother, I came to the river Avon; the flood was great and rapid after the late rains, and I thought of looking for a place of ſmoother water for my paſſage, when a gentleman and lady, attended by a train of ſervants, came riding along the banks. As they rode, chatting and laughing, a fowler, who was concealed in a copſe juſt at hand, let fly at a bird; whereupon the fiery horſe that the gentleman was on took fright, and, with a bound, ſuddenly plunged into the current; whereat the lady gave a loud ſhriek, and fell ſenſeleſs to the ground. The horſe roſe without his rider, and ſwam down the ſtream. Soon after the rider appeared, and the attendants were divided between their care of the lady and their lamentations for their maſter on the edge of the bank. Then ſeeing no other help, my heart ſmote me, and I caſt myſelf in without reflection. I kept aloof, however, for fear he ſhould grapple at me, and ſink us both together; ſo I ſupported and

ſhoved

ſhoved him before me toward land, till having reached the bank, I laid hold on it with one hand, and with the other raiſed him up within the reach of his ſervants, who had ſtretched themſelves flat upon the brink to receive him; then, being already drenched, and having nothing further to do, I turned and ſwam over, and ſo made my eſcape.

Did you aſk the name of the party whom you ſaved in the manner you ſay? No truly, Sir, there was no leiſure for ſuch an enquiry. —Why did you not wait for the recompence that was ſo juſtly your due for ſo great a deliverance?—Recompence! Pleaſe your Honour, I could have done no leſs for the beggar that begs at the corner.

Noble, noble fellow! exclaimed Mr Fenton; I am he, I am he whom you ſaved that day, my brother!—And ſo ſaying, he aroſe and caught Homely in his arms, and preſſed, and preſſed him over again, to his boſom. While Harry, all-impatient, ſeized hold of Homely alſo, and ſtruggled hard to get him to himſelf from his father.

When they were ſomething compoſed, and all again ſeated, Ah, Homely, ſays Mr Fenton, I have ſent and made many inquiries after you; but not for many years after the day in which you ſaved me. I hated, I lothed you for having prolonged my life to ſuch a miſery as no other man ever endured. O—h, that

that lady! that lady!——But no matter for the preſent —— (and, ſo ſaying, he wiped the ſwelling tear from his eye.) —— Tell me, Homely —That devil, Sir Freeſtone—I am not of a malicious temper, and yet I wiſh for nothing more than full vengeance on his head. ——Don't you believe that he went to you, with a felonious intention of defrauding you of your property? —Believe it, Sir! I can ſwear it. The circumſtances, and their conſequences, are full evidence thereof.

Very well, ſaid Mr Fenton, though we may not be able to carry a civil action againſt him, we may aſſail him with better advantage in a criminal way. I will draw up and take your depoſition myſelf; and, to-morrow, I will ſend you with a note to Lord Portland, where more may be done for you, my friendly, than you think.

In the mean time, you and your family ſhall take up your abode in the back part of my houſe, and from thence you ſhall not depart, till, as your Peggy's dream has it, all your loſſes ſhall be reſtored to you ſevenfold upon earth; what your portion may be in heaven, muſt be your own care; and may the Spirit of grace guide you in the way you ſhould go!

Early the next morning, Mr Fenton ſent Homely to London with his depoſition, and ſeveral papers, accompanied by a letter from himſelf to Lord Portland. In the evening

Homely

Homely returned, and entering with a face of triumph, he seized Mr Fenton's hand, and eagerly kissing it, Blessed, blessed be the hand, he cried, that hath the power of God, among men, for good works. When I sent in your Honour's letter, I was not detained a moment. His Lordship made me sit down, perused my papers with attention, questioned me on the particulars, grew inflamed against Sir Freestone, and gave him two or three hearty curses for an execrable villain. He then called a gentleman to him who was in waiting, and ordered an attachment to be instantly issued against the knight. It was accordingly executed upon him, and he now lies in Newgate. God be praised! said Mr Fenton, so far there is equity still extant upon earth.

It is not unnatural to suppose, that Mr Fenton's family were immoderately fond of those whose father had saved the life of their most dear master. Mr Clement, in particular, took pains and pleasure in forwarding the boys in their letters; and Mrs Clement passed most of her time very happily with Peggy and her little girls.

Frank, the butler, had been abroad upon an expedition, at the time that Mr Homely's family arrived; and did not return till Homely had come back from Lord Portland's. He was then informed, with joy, of the guests they

they had got; and he waited with impatience, till the man he longed to see should come out from his master. As soon as he appeared, he catched one of his hands in both of his, and looking lovingly at him, cried, Do I once more behold that happy face, Mr Homely? I was the man to whose hands you delivered my precious lord from the devouring of the floods. Gladly, Heaven knows, would I have sacrificed my own life for the salvation of his. But, alas! I had no skill in contending with the waters, and the sure loss of my own life would not have given the smallest chance for the recovery of my master. You are the person, Mr Homely, to whom God committed that blessed task and trust: and Mr James, and I, and all of us, have agreed to make up a hundred pounds a-piece for your children, in acknowledgment of the benefit you did us on that day.

Here Homely took Frank very affectionately into his arms, and with a faltering voice, said, Your offer, Sir, is dear, very dear, indeed, unto me, as it is a proof of that love which you all so warmly bear to our common lord and master. If there is any occasion, I will not refuse this extraordinary instance of your benevolence; but our master's influence and bounty are doing much in my behalf; and, in the mean time, I will take it as a very particular favour, if you will be pleased to introduce

introduce me to my fellow-ſervants of this houſe.

Within the following fortnight, a ſervant in a rich livery came on a foaming horſe, and, delivering a letter at the door, rode away directly. The letter ran thus:

To Henry Fenton, Eſq;

Dear Sir,

"The trial of our recreant knight is at "hand; and, if you inſiſt upon it, ſhall be "proſecuted to the utmoſt extent of our laws. "The wretch, indeed, deſerves to be gibbet-"ted. But he has relations of worth and con-"ſideration among us. They have beſought "me to ſhield them from ſhame on this oc-"caſion; and I join them in requeſting you to "accept the incloſed order for three thouſand "pounds, in favour of your client, together "with his farm and effects, which attorney "Snack ſhall immediately reſtore.

"Let me have your anſwer within three "days; and believe me,

Your true

as well as obliged ſervant,

Portland."

The day following Mr Fenton ſent Harry in

in his chariot, attended by Mr James and two ſervants in livery, to return his acknowledgments to the favourite of the king.

Lord Portland received our hero with pleaſure and ſurpriſe equally evident in his countenance. As he piqued himſelf on being one of the fineſt perſonages in the nation, he ſecretly reſpected his own reſemblance in another.

After a few mutual compliments, and ſome occaſional diſcourſe, the Earl told Harry that he muſt take a private dinner with him. We are quite alone, ſays he, only two viſcounts, a baronet, and four or five gentlemen of the miniſterial quill. Pray, my Lord, ſaid Harry ſmiling, is a dinner the whole of their penſion? Not ſo, Sir, I confeſs; they are the Swiſs of the lettered world, and fight for pay. They were formerly of the oppoſite junto; but they have changed their opinions along with their party; and our honour obliges us to give them at leaſt as much, in the cauſe of the crown, as they formerly got in the cauſe of the populace. I doubt, my Lord, returned Harry, that their ſilence would anſwer your ends full as well as their oratory, unleſs your treaſury could hold out in bribing people to read alſo. Very pleaſantly ſevere indeed, replied the laughing Earl. But come, the bell calls us to dinner.

When dinner was over, and chearfulneſs

circulated with the bottle. I would give a great deal to know, Mr Harry, ſaid the Earl, what you and your father think of his Majeſty and his miniſters? Should I ſpeak my downright ſentiments, my Lord, anſwered Harry, in ſome things I might offend, and in others appear to flatter. O, you cannot offend in the leaſt, cried the Earl; we are daily accuſtomed to be told of all the faults whereof we are, or may be, or might have been guilty; and as to flattery, you know it is the food of us courtiers. Why, my Lord, you want no champion for the preſent, ſaid Harry: you are all, as I perceive, on one ſide of the queſtion; and if ſome one does not appear, however impotent, to oppoſe you, the ſhittle-cock of converſation may fall to the ground. Right, very right, my ſweet fellow, rejoined his lordſhip; proceed, you ſhall have nothing but fair play, I promiſe you.

To be ſerious then, ſaid Harry, my father thinks, in the firſt place, (for I have no manner of ſkill in ſuch matters), he thinks I ſay, that his Majeſty is one of the greateſt warriors and one of the wiſeſt ſtateſmen that ever exiſted. He thinks, however, that he has attachments and views that look ſomething farther than the mere intereſts of the people by whom he has been elected; but he ſays, that thoſe views ought, in a meaſure, to be indulged, in return for the very great benefits that he

he has done us. He is, therefore, grieved to find that his Majesty has met with so much reluctance and coldness from a nation so obliged.

You are a darling of a politician, exclaimed the Earl; but we will not thank you for your compliments, till we know what you have further to object against us.

My father admits, my Lord, that his Majesty and his ministers have re-established and exhibited, in a fair and open light, the most glorious constitution that ever was constructed. But then he apprehends, that you are beginning to sap the foundations of the pile that you yourselves erected.

As how, my dear young Mentor? By being over-bounteous in paying former friends, and by being still more profuse in procuring new adherents.—Child of honour, cried the Earl, another, less elegant than yourself, would have said, that we are sapping the constitution by *bribery* and *corruption*. You have, indeed, my Harry, delicately tempered your admonitions, even like the cup of life, the sweets with the bitters. But what say you, Gentlemen, shall a babe lately from the breast, bear away the whole palm from people grown grey in politics?

The young gentleman, says Mr Veer, (the principal of the court-writers) talks wonderfully for one not versed in the subject of which he treats. The people of England are stupidly

proud and licentiouſly ungovernable; they are the moſt ignorant, and yet moſt obſtinate of any people upon earth; it is only by their being ſelfiſh that they become in any degree manageable; if their voices were not bought, they would either give them to perſons of their own ſtupid caſt, unknowing in our laws or our conſtitution, or to men of an antimonarchial and republican ſpirit, who would be perpetually putting rubs before the wheels of good government.

I never knew till now, Sir, returned Harry, that, in order to make people true to their country, and their King, that is, in order to make men honeſt, it was neceſſary to corrupt them. But I have ſtill good hopes, that the picture which you have drawn of our governors is not altogether a juſt one.

Governors! cries Veer, I ſpoke not a word of governors. You ſpoke of the people, Sir, ſays Harry, and they, as I take it, are our governors. The people our governors! this is the moſt wonderful and the neweſt doctrine that ever I heard. A doctrine even as old as the conſtitution, rejoins Harry: They are not only our governors, but more abſolutely ſo than any ſo ſtyled. His Lordſhip is the only man in company whoſe perſon, in ſome inſtances, is exempt from their juriſdiction; but his property remains ſtill ſubjected to their deciſion.

No

No law can be made in Britain but by the people in their proxies: And, when thoſe laws are made, the people are again conſtituted the judges thereof on their *jury-tribunals*, through their reſpective ſhires; as alſo judges of facts and rights, whether civil or criminal, throughout the realm.

Thus their privilege of making laws for themſelves in PARLIAMENT, and of judging of the ſaid laws (when made) on JURIES, compoſes, as it were, a rudder, whereby the people are admitted (glorioufly) to ſteer the veſſel of their own commonwealth.

Would it not be a pity, then, that ſo great a people ſhould be no other than ſuch as Mr Veer has deſcribed them, a parcel of ignorant, licentious, ſelfiſh, baſe, venal proſtitutes, unenlightened by reaſon, and uninfluenced by conſcience?

If they ſhould be reduced, if it is poſſible, I ſay, that they ſhould ever be reduced to ſo very vile and deplorable a ſtate, it can only be by the very meaſures that Mr Veer has recommended. The character, as ye know, of a certain old tempter is not over amiable, and I ſhould be ſorry that any whom I love and reſpect ſhould follow in his ſteps

And now, Gentlemen, take the argument home to yourſelves. The people have the diſpoſal of our lives, liberties, and properties. Which of you then would like to have life it-

ſelf, and all that is valuable in it, at the arbitration of a pack of wretches, who, being wholly ſelfiſh, can have no kindred-feelings or compaſſion for you? who, being themſelves devoid of honour and equity, cannot judge according to the one or the other; who, being already accuſtomed to influence and proſtitution, have their ears and hands open to all who would whiſper or bribe them to your prejudice?

I, as a fool, Gentlemen, utter the dictates of wiſdom, for I ſpeak the ſentiments of a much wiſer and much better man than myſelf. Should a general corruption take place in the land, adieu to all virtue; adieu to humanity, and all ſocial connections! all reaſon and law, all conſcience and magiſtracy, all public and private weal, muſt vaniſh or be confounded in one chaos together. And from hence it is ſelf evident, that he who debauches the morals of the leaſt of his Majeſty's ſubjects, is an enemy to his King, to his country, and mankind.

I proteſt, ſaid his Lordſhip, with ſome little confuſion, I never beheld this matter in the ſame light before; but I ſhall take care to inſpect and examine it at better leiſure.

Here the company roſe to ſeparate; when Harry ſtepping towards Veer with an affectionate pleaſantry in his countenance, Mr Veer, ſays he, I fear I have miſbehaved a little to-day;

I am

I am naturally warm, and am apt to be too much ſo on particular ſubjects. O Sir, ſays Veer, I am an old prize-fighter, and accuſtomed to cuts; but I now know my man, and ſhall hereafter avoid engaging, or keep barely on the defenſive; do me the honour, however, as old combatants were wont, to ſhake hands, at parting, in token of hearts free from malice. In the conteſt of love, Mr Veer, you never ſhall foil me, cried Harry.

Now, my Lord, if you have any commands for my father, pray let me have the pleaſure of being your meſſenger. Upon my honour, my dear boy, and that is the oath of a lord, you ſhall not part from me for this night at leaſt. My father, Sir, will be uneaſy. I will diſpatch one to him directly? I have particular deſigns upon you; you muſt go with me to the levee; I cannot refuſe myſelf the pleaſure of introducing you to his Majeſty; I expect to get credit by you. I rather fear, my Lord, that I may do you ſome diſgrace.

O, cried the Earl, you think you are not fine enough. Why, truly, you will ſee folk there of much more luſtrious attire. But let others diſgrace their ornaments; be you humbly content, my child, with adorning your dreſs. Harry bluſhed and bowed.

When they arrived at court, the Earl left his young friend a while in the levee-room, and

and went to impart ſome matters to the King in his cloſet.

While our hero ſtood in the crowd, ſome one came and pinned a paper to his back, whereon was written in capital letters, THE FOOL.

However it did not remain long enough to do him much diſgrace. A young gentleman, of a graceful figure and very amiable aſpect, preſſed cloſe behind Harry, and gently ſtole the writing away; then, taking him by the hand, requeſted to ſpeak with him apart.

I wonder, Sir, ſaid the ſtranger, who it was that could be ſo malicious, or ſo baſe, as to faſten this title on your back; I am certain he muſt never have ſeen your face. O, Sir, ſaid Harry, bluſhing and ſmiling together, this muſt have been the office of ſome old acquaintance; it is the title to which I have been accuſtomed from my infancy, and I am well contented to carry it with me to the grave; I am much affected, Sir, however, by this uncommon inſtance of your humanity to an unknown; pray add to the obligation, by letting me know to whom it is that I am ſo endearingly bound.

My name, Sir, is Thornhill. I am juſt arrived from my travels; and I would willingly go my long journey over again to become juſt ſuch another fool as you are.

Harry ſeized him by the hand, and gave him

him at once the ſqueeze and the look of love. ——Sir William Thornhill, I preſume?—The ſame, my dear Sir.—I have been enamoured of your character before I ſaw you, Sir William. My name is Harry Fenton; I live on Hampſtead-hill; I ſee that your pleaſure lies in communicating pleaſure, I am therefore perſuaded you will indulge me with a call, at ſome leiſure hour —I will not defer that advantage a ſingle day ——I ſhall have the longings of a lover, till you arrive.

Here the King entered, and all converſe was broken off. Lord Portland, looking about, diſcovered Harry, and, taking him by the hand, led him up, and left him ſtanding before his Majeſty. Then approaching the Royal ear, May it pleaſe you, Sire, ſays he, this is the ſon of the gentleman who advanced us two hundred thouſand pounds on our expedition from Holland.

The King turned to Harry with a ſolemn and piercing look; and, having eyed him for ſome time, he again turned to the Earl, and cried, Ay, Portland, this is ſomething, this, indeed, is a gem fit to ſet in the crown of a monarch. He then reached forth his hand, and, while our hero ſtooped to kiſs it, he preſſed Harry's ſhoulder with his other hand.

My dear child, ſaid the King, we are much obliged to your father. You, by inheritance, are attached to our crown, and you may juſtly

ly

ly demand whatever we can beſtow. We humbly thank your Majeſty, anſwered Harry; we only claim the privilege of ſerving you with all our hearts and all our powers.

Which would you chuſe, the army, or the court? Indeed I ſhould beſt like to have you about my own perſon. That is the pitch to which I aſpire, anſwered Harry, as ſoon as I am capable of ſo high a duty.

But why have you been ſuch a ſtranger? ſaid the King; had we ſeen you before, I think we ſhould have not forgot you. O Sire, ſaid Harry, I am but as a bird from the neſt, and this is the firſt of my unfledged excurſions. If a bird, cried the King, it muſt be a young eagle. Not ſo, Sire, anſwered Harry, I ſhould then better ſupport the brightneſs of the ſun that is now before me.—I would give one of my kingdoms that you were my ſon!—I am already one of the millions of happy ſons and daughters who have the glory of calling you their royal father!

So ſaying, our hero bowed twice, and drew back; while the King looked toward him in ſilence and wonder.

After ſome talk with his courtiers, his Majeſty retired. And Lord Portland took Harry, and was followed by a number of the young gentry, to the ball-room.

There the Queen, at the upper end, was ſeated under a canopy, her maids of honour attending,

attending, and two brilliant ranges of foreign and Britiſh ladies were ſeated on either hand.

The Earl gave a whiſper to the maſter of the ceremonies, and he immediately led Harry up to the preſence, where he had the honour of kiſſing Queen Mary's fair hand.

After ſome whiſpering chat between her Majeſty and Lord Portland, the ball was ordered to be opened by our hero and the lovely young Princeſs of Heſſe.

All eyes were fixed upon them with attention ſtill as night, while they moved like Homer's gods, without ſeeming to preſs the ground; or like a miſt before the breeze along the ſide of ſome ſtately hill.

As ſoon as the minuet was cloſed, the Princeſs ſaid ſoftly to Harry, in French, The *Louvre*, Sir, if you pleaſe.

This was a dance of the neweſt faſhion, and was calculated to ſhew forth and exhibit a graceful perſon in all the poſſible elegancies of movement and attitude.

As ſoon as they had finiſhed, the whole aſſembly could ſcarce refrain from breaking forth in loud plaudits, as at the public theatre; and a humming of mixed voices and patting feet was heard throughout.

When Harry had led the Princeſs to her ſeat, and left her with a bow of the moſt expreſſive reſpect; he happened to ſee Lady Louiſa's brother, and hinting to the Lord Chamberlain his

deſire

deſire to dance with her, his Lordſhip readily indulged him.

When Harry had finiſhed, the Lord Chamberlain honoured Sir William Thornhill with Lady Louiſa's hand; and after four or five more minuets, the country dances began: in which all the younger part of the company joined, except Lord Bottom, who refuſed to ſtep forth, and ſat apart ruminating and feeding on his own cogitations.

The Princeſs and our hero led up the dance, and Louiſa and Sir William were appointed the next in courſe, in order to do the principal honours to the two young ſtrangers.

In the intervals of dancing, Lady Louiſa took occaſion to ſay to Harry, You are a great ſtranger, Sir, but we deſire you ſhould be ſo, ſince we did not treat you with the reſpect that your merit ſhould have commanded. That, Madam, anſwered Harry, is not wholly the cauſe of my diſtance; but there are perſons whoſe lovelineſs is more formidable to me than an arrangement of ſabred huſſars with their fierce-looking muſtaches.

Harry had no ſooner ſaid this than his heart ſmote him with remorſe; for, though Louiſa was indeed lovely, and he felt for her the propenſities and tenderneſs of a brother; yet ſhe was not of that ſpecies of beauty that was formed to fix his heart; and he ſecretly reproached himſelf for having attempted to

raiſe

raiſe the vanity, or draw the affections of an innocent girl, with no further view than of making a parade of his own talents; a meaſure, he juſtly judged, unbecoming a man of a ſpark of honour or integrity.

As ſoon as the dances were ended, and that all had mixed and chatted, and roved about a while, Harry obſerved Sir William coming towards him in a little fluſter. What is the matter, my friend, ſays Harry, pray what has diſcompoſed you?—Tell me, my dear Harry, that jackanapes in the blue and gold, do you know who he is? I proteſt, had it not been for the reſpect I owe the preſence, I would have chaſtiſed him on the ſpot. The dance was no ſooner done, than he came up with a moſt provoking ſaucineſs in his look. I wonder, Sir, ſaid he, at the inſolence of one of your rank; you ought to have had more modeſty than to ſuffer yourſelf to be paired with a Lady ſo far above you.

O cried Harry, taking Sir William very lovingly under the arm, paſs this matter over, my ſweet friend, I beſeech you. That is young Lord Bottom, the very perſon who, I am pretty confident, contrived the honour of the *paſquinade* on my back this day. But he is brother to the ſweet girl with whom you danced. For her ſake, for my ſake, forgive him, I entreat you; but, above all, forgive him for the ſake of his dear father the Earl of

Mansfield, one of the nobleſt nobles, and one of the worthieſt men that ever ſtept on Engliſh ground. He has been theſe two years past abroad upon an embaſſy; and while he is promoting the intereſts of the public, has left his own houſehold unchaſtened and unguided.

Here the converſe of the friends was ſuddenly broken off. The Lord Chamberlain came, and tapping Harry on the ſhoulder, told him, that the Queen deſired to ſpeak with him.

When he had with a lowly reverence advanced to the throne, You are, ſaid the Queen, the moſt accompliſhed cavalier that ever I beheld; and, had I ſufficient youth and beauty, I would chuſe you for my knight to bear my fame through the world. I would rather, ſaid Harry, that your Majeſty would employ me on ſome more dangerous enterpriſe. How is that? ſaid the Queen. Why, anſwered Harry, your Majeſty's champion could have little or nothing to do, as all would willingly acknowledge the juſtice of his cauſe.

You are, cried the Queen, the loveliest and the ſweeteſt fellow I ever knew. My eye has followed you all along, and marked you for my own, and I muſt either beg or ſteal you from our good friend your father. I, therefore, want no token to put me in mind of you, but you may want ſome token to keep your friends in your memory. Here are two pictures; the one

one is the portrait of our maſter and ſovereign lord; the other is the picture of the woman who ſits before you, lowly, ſimple, unadorned; chuſe which you pleaſe.

Give me the plain picture, cried Harry, with a kind of rapture; it ſhall henceforth become my riches and my ornament.

So ſaying, he bent his knee, and taking the little portrait, he preſſed it to his lips with the ardour of an ancient lover in romance. Then putting it into his boſom, he gracefully aroſe, and retired from the preſence.

O, the fool, the egregious fool! muttered ſome. Nobly, moſt nobly done! cried others.

As Harry was following the Earl of Portland down ſtairs, Lord Bottom came up in the crowd, and, in a half whiſper, ſaid, You are too great a man to day, Sir, to acknowledge your old acquaintance. But not ſo great a fool, retorted Harry, as not to be taught my diſtance with thoſe who, like Lord Bottom, have a right to look down upon me.

After a ſhort but ſound ſleep, Harry hurried home to prepare for the reception of his new friend. He told Mr Fenton that Sir William was returned; how he had been obligingly made known to him in the forementioned inſtance of his humanity to a ſtranger; and that he had promiſed to be with them that morning. But, pray, Sir, don't tell Homely a word of the coming of his landlord, till we

place them, as it were by ſurpriſe, face to face.

In about an hour after, a chaiſe and four came rapidly to the door; and Harry inſtantly ſprung out, and caught his friend in his arms before he came to the ground.

The two friends entered the parlour, careſſing and careſſed, and caſting looks of cordial love and delight on each other. My father, Sir, ſaid Harry, and led Sir William by the hand to Mr Fenton, who received him with a countenance of that heart-ſpeaking complaiſance, which never fails to attach the ſoul of the perſon to whom it is directed. Ah, my Harry, cried Sir William, I no longer wonder at you: I ſee that you are all that you are by inheritance.

But, Sir, continued he, you had like to have loſt your ſon, laſt night. Their Majeſties were moſt unwilling to quit their hold of him; and I believe in my ſoul, would willingly have adopted him the heir of their crown. I ſhould be very ſorry, ſir William, replied Mr Fenton, to ſee a circle about his head that would give him an aching heart. I am ſure that is the caſe with the preſent royal proprietors. In a limited monarchy like ours, the ſtation of the prince is looked upon with a malignant eye by the envious, and at the ſame time rendered uneaſy by the perpetual conteſts between rights and

and privileges on the one part, and prerogative on the other.

Moreover, Sir William, I ſhall never wiſh to ſee one of my child's diſpoſition on the throne of Great Britain. I ſhould be jealous of ſuch a perſon in behalf of my country. No people could be more tenacious of their liberties than the Swedes, till Guſtavus the ſon of Eric aſcended the throne. His manners were ſo amiable, his virtues ſo conſpicuous, his government ſo juſt, and he made ſo popular an uſe of all his powers, that his ſubjects thought they could never commit enough into his hands. But what was the conſequence? His ſucceſſors made his power a precedent for their own, without attending to the precedent of his adminiſtration.

Thus you ſee, that a prince of qualities eminently popular might prove of dangerous tendency to a free people, foraſmuch as he might charm the eyes of their jealouſy to ſleep, and ſo ſeduce them from that guard which is ever neceſſary to preclude the encroachments of ambition.

But, Sir William, may we not order your horſes up? You muſt not think of going till you take a plain dinner with us. A ſupper too, Sir, moſt joyfully, anſwered the knight. I leave London in the morning on a certain expedition, and ſhall not have the pleaſure of embracing you again for ſome time.

Mr Fenton then addreſſing the Baronet with a ſmile, our Harry here, Sir William, never ſaw a court before; it is natural therefore to think that he muſt have been greatly amuſed, and his young heart deceived by the ſplendor and parade. But you have ſeen and obſerved upon many courts of late; pray what do you think of the entertainment they afford?

As of the dulleſt of all dull farces, anſwered the Knight. All the courts that I have ſeen are nearly of the ſame caſt. Conceive to yourſelf, Sir, a ſtage or theatre of comedians without auditors or ſpectators. They are all actors, and all act nearly the ſame part of ſolemn complaiſance, and nauſeous grimace. Each intends to impoſe, and yet no one is impoſed upon; where profeſſions are taken to imply the very reverſe of what they expreſs.

What do you ſay to this, Harry? ſaid Mr Fenton. I have very little to ſay, Sir, in favour of the actors, but the actreſſes, as I take it, afford better entertainment. Here Sir William and Mr Fenton laughed; and Harry, upon a wink, ſtepped out to bring in Homely, as it were by accident.

Sir William, ſaid Mr Fenton, there is a man come to this houſe, who once ſaved my life at the riſk of his own. It is a great many years ago, and I have not ſeen him ſince the action till very lately. I have ſent Harry for him, that you may learn the particulars, and

adviſe with me what recompence he ought to receive.

If the recompence is to be proportioned to the value of the life he ſaved, my honoured Sir, I ſhould not know where to fix the bounds of retribution. And, in truth, Mr Fenton, from my knowledge of you this day, I alſo hold myſelf very highly his debtor.

At this inſtant Harry led in Homely by the hand, and left him ſtanding directly oppoſite to the Baronet.

Homely gazed with all his eyes, and ſtood mute through aſtoniſhment.—At length he exclaimed, Bleſs me!—mercy upon me!—as ſure as I hope for heaven,—it is—I think it is, my dear young maſter!

Sir William, at the voice, lifted up his eyes to Homely, and remembering his marked man, roſe quickly, and, ſpringing forward, embraced him with much familiar affection; while Mr Fenton ſat, and his Harry ſtood beſide him, both wrapt in their own delicious ſenſibilities.

My dear Homely, my old companion, and brother ſportſman! cried Sir William, how in the world comes this about? ſo joyfully; ſo unexpectedly to meet you here!—How is your wife and pretty babes? I hope you left all well at home.

Yes, pleaſe your honour, they are all well, wonderfully well in this houſe, I aſſure you: for,

for, indeed, your Homely has no other home upon earth.

What you tell me is quite aſtoniſhing, replied the Knight; no home for you within the manor and demeſne of your friend? What misfortunes, what revolutions, could bring this wonder to paſs?

Sit down, ſaid Mr Fenton, pray be ſeated, Mr Homely, and give your lord a ſuccinct, but deliberate account of the inimitable pair, Sir Freeſtone, and his coadjutor.

As ſoon as Homely had told his tale, from the commencement of his diſtreſſes, to his arrival at the hovel, he ſtopped ſhort, and ſaid, —I have ſomething more to impart;—but I hope your honour will pardon me,—I am loth to deprive your friends of your company; but then my Peggy and my boys will be ſo tranſported to ſee your dear face again, that I cannot but beſeech you to indulge them, a minute or two, with that bleſſing.

Sir William roſe with a troubled humanity in his countenance, and followed to a back apartment, where Homely again ſtopped him ſhort; and, before he would take him to his Peggy, he there gave him a minute detail of all his obligations to what he called this wonderful family. But pray, Sir, continued he, let them know very little of what I have told you; for nothing puts them to ſo much pain as any kind of acknowledgments.

After

After a ſhort viſit to Peggy and her children, Sir William returned to his friends, with ſuch an inward awe and veneration for their characters, as, for a while, ſunk his ſpirits, and ſolemnized his features. This poor man, Sir, ſaid he, has been miſerably treated; but God has been exceedingly gracious to him, in caſting the ſhipwrecked wretch on ſuch a happy ſhore as this. But this makes no diſcharge of any part of my duty toward him.

Mark me, Homely, I am now of age, and Lord Lechmore has no further authority in my affairs; wherefore, before I leave this houſe, I will give you a letter of attorney for the whole agency of the manor. Thank your honour, thank your honour, cried Homely, in a kind of tranſport! if I do not prove as faithful to you as another, I will do you juſtice on myſelf with the firſt rope I can lay hold on.

As for that reprobate Snack, continued the Knight, I will take care to be up with him. He owes the executors of my father ſix hundred and ſeventy pounds. I will have that matter put directly in ſuit, and as ſoon as it is recovered, it ſhall be laid out on a commiſſion for your ſon, my friend Tom; as I do not chuſe yet to aſk any favour from the miniſtry. Laſtly, that you may no more be diſtreſſed for rent, I will never accept a penny of it, till all your children are decently and competently provided for.

O, Sir!

O, Sir! exclaimed Homely, I ſhall be too rich, quite overburdened; I ſhall not know where to lay my treaſures. Not ſo faſt, my good friend, replied Sir William ſmiling; you have not heard of the drawback that I propoſe to have upon you. Whenever I reſide in the country, you are to have a hot diſh, ay, and a cool hogſhead too, ready for me and my company. Agreed, Sir, cried Homely, provided I may have the liberty, during your abſence, to drink your Honour's health out of that ſame hogſhead —A juſt reſerve, ſaid Harry laughing.—And full as grateful as it is jovial, cried Mr Fenton.—Why, Gentlemen, rejoined Homely, a man of ſpirit would ſcorn to accept ſuch benefits without making conditions.

After twelve o'clock at night, and an affectionate and tender adieu, Sir William ſet out by moon-light for London.

The two following days were employed in preparing for Homely's departure; and a coach and four, with a chaiſe, were provided for the conveyance of him and his family.

The night before their parting, Mr Fenton deſired that Homely and his wife ſhould be ſent to him to his cloſet. As ſoon as they entered, he cloſed the door. My dear friends, ſaid he, as I may not be up in the morning, to take a timely leave of you, it might do as well to go through that melancholy office to night. —Here, Mrs Homely, here is ſome little mat-

ter

ter apiece toward beginning a fortune for your three pretty daughters. Pray, Homely, take care to have it diſpoſed of for them upon good ſecurities. Here he put three orders upon his banker, for five hundred pounds each, into Peggy's hand; then, turning to Homely, and taking him ſtraitly in his arms, God be with you and your dear Peggy, my Homely, he cried, and give us all a bleſſed meeting where friends ſhall part no more!

The diſtreſſed Homely was paſt utterance; but diſengaging, and flinging himſelf at the feet of his patron, while Peggy kept on her knees weeping and ſobbing beſide him; O, he cried, at length, Next to my God! O next to my Lord and my God.—My Lord and my maſter, my maſter and my Lord!

The next morning, before ſun-riſe, Harry was up, and, going to Homely's apartment, embraced him and his wife. He then kiſſed and careſſed all the girls and boys round, and gave to each of them a gold medal to keep him in their remembrance; when Homely and his Peggy, with open arms, trembling lips, and ſwelling eyes, began to take their leave. God be with you, God be with you, ſobbed Homely aloud, never, never, till I get to heaven, ſhall I meet with ſuch another dear aſſembly.

Mr Fenton now judged it time to forward his Harry's education, eſpecially with reſpect to his knowledge of the world, of the views, pleaſures,

pleaſures, manners, bents, employments, and characters of mankind.

For this purpoſe, he propoſed to leave Arabella ſole regent of his family; and, for a few weeks, to ſtay with Clement and Harry in London, there to ſhew him whatever might gratify his curioſity or merit his inſpection.

While the coach was in waiting, and they all ſtood on the hill, the great city being extended in ample view beneath them, Mr Henton exclaimed: "O! London, London! thou mauſoleum of dead ſouls, how pleaſant art thou to the eye, how beautiful in outward proſpect! but within how full of rottenneſs, and reeking abominations! Thy dealers are all ſtudents in the myſtery of iniquity, of fraud and impoſition on ignorance and credulity. Thy public offices are hourly exerciſed in exactions and extortion. Thy courts of judicature are buſied in the ſale, the delay or perverſion of juſtice; they are ſhut to the injured and indigent, but open to the wealthy pleas of the invader and oppreſſor. Thy magiſtracy is often employed in ſecretly countenancing and abetting the breach of thoſe laws it was inſtituted to maintain. Thy charities, ſubſcribed for the ſupport of the poor, are laviſhed by the truſtees in pampering the rich, where drunkenneſs ſwallows till it wallows, and gluttony ſtuffs till it pants, and unbuttons and ſtuffs again. Even the great ones of thy court have audaciouſly

ouſly ſmiled away the gloom and horrors of guilt, and refined, as it were, all the groſſneſs thereof, by inverting terms, and palliating phraſes. While the millions that crowd and hurry through thy ſtreets are univerſally occupied in ſtriving and ſtruggling to riſe by the fall, to fatten by the leanneſs, and to thrive by the ruin of their fellows. Thy offences are rank, they ſteam and cloud the face of heaven. The gulf alſo is hollow beneath, that is one day to receive thee. But the meaſure of thy abominations is not yet full; and the number of thy righteous hath hitherto exceeded the proportion that was found in the firſt Sodom.

That evening they went to the opera, where Harry was ſo captivated by the ſentimental melings and varied harmony of the airs, that he requeſted Mr Fenton to permit him to be inſtructed on ſome inſtrument. Not by my advice, my dear, anſwered Mr Fenton; I would not wiſh you to attempt any thing in which you may not excel. Muſic is a ſcience that requires the application of a man's whole life, in order to arrive at any eminence. As it is enchanting in the hand of a maſter, it is alſo diſcordant and grating in its inferior degrees. Your labours have been employed to much more valuable purpoſes; and I would not, as they ſay, give my child's time for a ſong. Harry inſtantly acquieſced with the beſt temper imaginable, as the will of his beloved

patron was, truly ſpeaking, his own will; and that he only wanted to know it, to be at all times, and on all occaſions, conformable thereto.

A few following days were employed in viſiting the tower, in ſurveying the armory, regalia, &c. in viewing the monument, and exchange; and, laſtly, in contemplating the ſolemnity of Weſtminſter-abbey, with the marbled effigies and monumental depoſits of the renowned in death; the place, as Mr Fenton affectingly obſerved, to which all the living muſt finally adjourn.

The next night they went to the theatre, to ſee the feats of Signor Volanti, the celebrated Italian poſture-maſter, rope-dancer, and equilibriſt. Such wonders are now ſo common as to be ſcarce entertaining; but, at that time, they were received with burſts and roars of applauſe.

Our hero felt himſelf attached by the ſimilar excellencies of his own activity in another, and, going behind the ſcenes, he accoſted Volanti in French. Signor, ſaid he, I have been highly entertained by your performance this night, and here are five guineas in return of the pleaſure you have given me. The foreigner looked at Harry, and then at the money, with a kind of aſtoniſhment. I thank you, noble Sir, he cried; my poor endeavours are ſeldom ſo liberally rewarded. Pray, how long

do you ſtay with us? In about a fortnight, ſo pleaſe your Nobleneſs, I intend to leave London. But, before I go, I would do ſomething to leave a name behind me. A day or two before my departure, I will fly from the ſpire of Saint Clement's church, in the ſight of all the people; and this I will do *gratis*, or rather in acknowledgment of the favours I have received in this kingdom. But is it poſſible to execute what you propoſe? With all eaſe and ſafety, Sir; I have done nearly as much, three times in Germany, and once at Madrid.

Here an arch thought ſtruck Harry, and, muſing a moment, will you permit me, ſaid he, to be the conductor of this affair? Allow me only to appoint the day, and draw up your advertiſement, and I will make you a preſent of twenty pieces. Agreed, Sir, cried Volanti, and twenty thouſand thanks to confirm the bargain. Accept theſe five guineas then, in earneſt of my engagement; my ſervant, here, will tell or ſhew you where I am to be found. That night at ſupper, Mr Fenton remarked an unuſual pleaſantry in the muſcles of his darling's ſweetly-ſober countenance. My Harry, I find, ſaid he, does not always impart all his ſecrets to his friends; he has certainly ſome roguiſh matter in cogitation. *Magicum caſtes*, Sir, cried Harry; you are a conjurer, that is certain. Why, the public, as you know, Sir, have put the fool on me from my birth; Ho-

mer ſays, that revenge is ſweet as honey to the taſte; and ſo I am meditating in turn how to put the fool upon the public. And how do you contrive it, Harry? Only by acting the old proverb, that *one fool makes many*. But pray aſk me not about the manner, till I bring the buſineſs to ſome bearing.

The next day, being Thurſday, they all went in Mr Fenton's coach to Smithfield, where numbers of tents were ſet up, and ſeveral drolls and pantomimes, *&c* prepared, in imitation of the humours of Bartholomew-fair. The weather was fair and calm, and they let down all the glaſſes, that they might ſee, without interruption, whatever was to be ſeen.

Their coach ſtopped juſt oppoſite to an itinerant ſtage, where a genius who comprized, within his ſingle perſon, the two important functions of a tumbler and merry-andrew, by his ſucceſſive action and oratory, extorted plaudits and huzzas from all the ſpectators.

Among the reſt a countryman, who rode upon a mule, ſat gaping and grinning by intervals, in all the ecſtatic rapture that can be aſcribed to enthuſiaſm. While his attention was thus rivetted, two knaviſh wags came, and ungirthing his ſaddle, ſupported it on either hand, till a third of the fraternity led his mule away from under him, and a fourth came with a three-legged horſe, ſuch as houſewives dry their

their linen on, and, having jammed it under the ſaddle, they all retreated in peace.

The populace were ſo delighted at this humorous act of felony, that, inſtead of interrupting it, it only ſerved to redouble their joys and clamours. Harry too, greatly chuckled and laughed at the joke. But, when he ſaw the beaſt led off, and that the amazed proprietor, on ſtooping to take the bridle, had fallen precipitately to the ground, his heart twitched him with a kind of compunction, and, throwing himſelf out of the coach, he made all the ſpeed that the preſs would admit, and, recovering the mule, brought it back to its owner.

Here, friend, ſaid he, here is your beaſt again; take care the next time that they do not ſteal your teeth. Thank you, Maſter, ſaid the clown, ſince you have been ſo honeſt as to give him to me back, I will never be the one to bring you to the aſſizes or ſeſſions. I am much obliged to your clemency, anſwered Harry; but pray let me have the pleaſure of ſeeing you ſafe mounted. So ſaying, he held the ſtirrup, while the booby got up, and ſaid, Well, my lad, very well, if we happen to meet at Croydon, we may take a pot together.

In the evening they adjourned from coffee to David's-harp in Fleet-ſtreet, in order to hear Marmulet, the famed Genoeſe muſician, who performed on the pſaltery, the viol d'amor,

and other inſtruments not known till then in England.

They took Mr James with them to partake of the entertainment, and were ſhewn to a large room, where each paid half a crown at the door.

The room was divided into a number of boxes, where each company ſat apart, while they were jointly gratified and charmed by the inimitable execution of the muſician.

A flaſk of burgundy was ſet before Mr Fenton and his friends, while Mr Hardy and Mr Hilton, who ſat in the next box, were regaling themſelves with a glaſs of roſa ſolis.

All was ſilence and attention till there was a pauſe in the performance. Then, ſaid Mr Hardy, Do you know, Jack, that the Earl of Albemarle is to have a maſk on Monday night? I am ſorry to hear it, ſaid Mr Hilton, as I am obliged to be out of town. I may happen to ſave ſomething by that, ſaid Hardy; you muſt lend me your *domino*. Indeed, I cannot; it was torn to fritters in a ſcuffle, as I came out from the laſt maſquerade. Lend me your maſk then. That too was loſt at the ſame time; but what occaſion can you have for a maſk, Hardy? I'm ſure no one will take that for a natural face. Mine is the face of Mars, Hilton; yours that of Adonis, with which no modern Venus will ever be ſmitten, I promiſe you. I will engage to outrival an army of

ſuch

ſuch jackanapes in an aſſault on the fair. If impudence may compenſate for the want of other artillery, I believe you may do wonders, Hardy. And it does compenſate, my friend. Women, take my word and experience for it, love nothing of their own reſemblance, except in the glaſs. They deteſt any thing that looks like an ambiguity in the ſex. While what you are pleaſed to call impudence, Jack, ſpares their modeſty, ſaves them the appearance of an advance on their part, and gives them the pleaſure of piquing themſelves on their extraordinary virtue, in caſe they ſhould happen to make a defence. However, ſince you have complimented me on my aſſurance, I will put it to the teſt on this occaſion; and go to his Excellency's ball, without any other vizard ſave this which nature, in her great bounty, hath beſtowed.

When our company were on the return to their lodgings, Harry, ſaid Mr Fenton, would you not like to go to this maſquerade? Why Sir, as I have not yet ſeen one, perhaps it might not be amiſs to ſatisfy my curioſity for once in my life. In truth, ſaid Mr Fenton, I wiſh they never had been introduced into this kingdom, as they are inlets to intrigue, and give countenance to licentiouſneſs. However, for once in your life, as you ſay, you ſhall be gratified, my Harry. Be pleaſed to tell me, Sir, are they very entertaining? They would

be

be extremely diverting, my dear, if people acted up to the characters that they pretend to repreſent. But, on the contrary, they have ſailors who don't know a point in the compaſs, or the name of a rope in the ſhip; ſhepherds and ſhepherdeſſes who never eloped from the cockney-dialect of the city; Indian queens who can ſay nothing as to their ſubjects or their ſovereignty; gods and goddeſſes totally ignorant of their own hiſtory in the mythology; and Italian cardinals who will ſwear you in the phraſe of a Yorkſhire foxhunter.

But what ſhall we do for tickets, Harry? I don't care to apply to my friends, for fear of diſcovering that we are in town. O Sir, ſaid Mr James, I am acquainted with his excellency's major domo, and can procure you as many tickets as you pleaſe.

Mr Fenton aſſumed to himſelf, for the preſent, the appointment of Harry's character and dreſs. As the plainneſs of your garb has hitherto, ſaid he, been a maſk and diſguiſe to your internal ornaments, the brilliancy of your dreſs ſhall now, on the other hand, diſguiſe and conceal the ſimplicity of your manners.

About two hours before the opening of the ball, Harry wrapped himſelf in a black *domino*, and ſtepped into a hackney-coach with Mr James, who had promiſed to introduce him to his friend, in order for him to reconnoitre the

ſeveral

ſeveral ſcenes of operation before the action began.

The major domo received Harry with the utmoſt complacence; for he held his maſk in his hand, and the lovelineſs of his aſpect ſhone with peculiar luſtre through the blackneſs of his attire.

After ſurveying ſeveral apartments, they paſſed through the long room, and entered by an arched gateway, into a kind of ſaloon, at the upper end of which was a pedeſtal of about five feet in height, whereon a celebrated ſtatue of the Hercules Farneſe had formerly ſtood.

Harry eyed it attentively, and, conceiving a ſudden frolic, he inſtantly caſt away his cloak, clapped on his maſk and winged helmet, graſped his caduceus with his right hand, and laying his left on the top of the pedeſtal, ſprung lightly up, and threw himſelf into that attitude to which the ſtatuaries have formed their Mercury when juſt preparing for flight.

His headpiece was of thinly plated but poliſhed gold, buckled together at the joining by four burning carbuncles. His ſilk jacket exceeded the tint of an Egyptian ſky. It was braced cloſe to his body with emerald claſps, that ſhewed the fitneſs of his proportion to inimitable advantage; and over the whole in celeſtial confuſion, were ſown ſtars of different magnitudes, all powdered with diamonds.

The

The moment that Harry caſt himſelf into his poſture, the major domo ſtarted back ſeven or eight paces, and, raiſing his hands, with ſtaring eyes, and a mouth of open amazement, at length he exclaimed, Stay a little, my dear ſweet Maſter! do now, do but ſtay juſt as you are for a minute, and you will oblige me paſt expreſſion, I will be your own for ever.

So ſaying, he turned off, and, running to an adjacent apartment, where their Majeſties, with the Princeſs of Denmark, the Princeſs of Heſſe, and the chief of the court were gathered, he told his maſter aloud, that he had the greateſt curioſity to ſhew him that human eye ever beheld.

All roſe with precipitation, and crowded after the earl and the royal pair, as cloſe as decency would admit, till they came to the ſaloon, and beheld, with aſtoniſhment, the perſon, ſhape, attitude, and attire of our hero.

Some doubted, but moſt believed that he was a real ſtatue, placed there by his excellency on purpoſe for a ſurpriſe. Mr Fielding, who was the acknowledged connoiſſeur of the age, and was in fact, what the people of taſte call an *elegans formarum ſpectator*, exclaimed with ſome vehemency. Never, never did I behold ſuch beauty of ſymmetry, ſuch roundings of angles; where, where my lord, could you get this ineſtimable acquiſition? others cried, Phidias, Phidias, never executed the like;

like; all the works of Praxiteles were nothing to it!

The earl, however, was well appriſed of the deception, and knew that our Mercury was no part of his property.—Son of Maia, ſaid he aloud, what tidings from heaven?—A meſſage, anſwered Harry, from my father Jupiter to their Majeſties.—And pray, what may your errand intend?—Matters of higheſt importance; that they are the favourite repreſentatives of my father upon earth; and that while their Majeſties continue the monarchs of a free and willing people, they are greater than if they were regents of an univerſe of ſlaves.—All buzzed their applauſe and admiration—it muſt be he, whiſpered the King;—it can be no other, cried the Queen.—Albemarle whiſpered his Majeſty, we have marked this youth for our own; keep your eye upon him, and do your beſt endeavours to engage and bind him to us.

In the mean time, Harry, on delivering his celeſtial meſſage, flew like a feather from his poſt, and, caſting his cloak about him, vaniſhed into an adjoining cloſet.

The company now began to gather faſt, and Harry ſtealing from his retreat, kept his cloud about his ſky, and mingled in the crowd. Mr Clement had accompanied Mr Fenton in *dominos*. They ſoon diſcovered Harry, and were

were highly diverted by the account which he gave them of his metamorphosis into a statue.

While the assembly was dividing into pairs and chatty parties, a phenomenon entered that drew all their attention. The Honourable Major Gromley, the lustiest and fattest young man in the kingdom, advanced without a mask in petticoats, a slobbering bib and apron. He carried a large round of bread and butter in one hand, while Lady Betsy Minit, an elderly miss of about three feet high, held his leading-strings with her left hand, and in her right brandished a birch rod of lengthened authority. His governante pressed him forward, and seemed to threaten chastisement for his delay, while the jolly, broad, foolish, humourous, half-laughing, half-crying, baby-face of the Major, extorted peals of laughter from all who were present. And this is sufficient to convince us, that the performers of the ancient drama could not possibly, in masks, excite the passions of nature. No excellence of voice or gesture, of action or emphasis could compensate for the exclusion of the immediate interpreters of the soul, the living speech of the eye, and varied expression of the countenance.

After the Major had leisurely traversed the full length of the room, and inimitably executed the whole of his part, he retired to undress and assume a new appearance.

Mean while, two females entered in very unusual

unusual habits. The first was dressed in a choice collection of old English and Scotch ballads, from Chevy-Chace and the fragment of Hardi-Canute, down to Barbara Allan and the Babes in the Wood. The other was all hung from top to bottom with looking-glasses.

Immediately the crowd gathered about them. All who were fond of their own history preferable to that of others, paid their homage, in a circling throng, to the queen of the looking-glasses; while the few who preferred instruction were intent in perusing the fair who was covered with knowledge. But the lady of the mirrors did not long retain her votaries; her glasses were all emblems of her own disposition; they were the glasses of scandal and calumny, and represented the human species in the most distorted view; some lengthened and some widened their objects beyond measure, while others wholly inverted and turned them topsy-turvey. All flunk away in disgust from such prospects of their own persons, and the reflecting lady was justly left to glitter apart from society.

The next who entered was a Goliath, all sheathed in complete steel. He advanced with slow and majestic steps to the side-board, and calling for a flask of champaign, turned it down without taking it once from his head. He then demanded another, and another, and so on, till the provedore, who had looked and

longed in vain to see him drop, ran panic-struck to his master, and in a half whisper, said, My Lord, your cellars will scarcely suffice to quench the thirst of one man here: he has already turned down fifteen flasks of champaign, and still is unsatisfied, and calls for more. Then give him fifteen hogsheads, replied the Earl laughing; and if that will not answer, send out for more.

In the mean time, the mailed champion had withdrawn from the side-board, and with a large drinking-glass in his hand, advanced till he got into the midst of the assembly. He then turned a little instrument that was fixed in a certain part of his double-cased armour, and filling the glass to the brim, he unclasped the lower part of his beaver, and accosting a Peruvian princess who stood just opposite, Permit me the honour, Madam, says he, of drinking your Highness's health. So saying, the liquor was out of sight in a twinkling. Will your Royal Highness, continued he, be pleased to try how you relish our European wines? I am obliged to you, Sir, said she, I am actually athirst; then, raising her mask below, she pledged him to the bottom. Her companion, a shining Arcadian, advanced and requested the same favour. Then another, and another lady, and several others in succession, all of whom he graciously gratified, till he was nearly exhausted. Some of the men then pressed to him, and

and entreated for a glaſs: No, no, Gentlemen, ſaid he, go and be ſerved elſewhere; I am a merchant for ladies alone, I import no liquors for vile male-animals.

Our former acquaintance, Mr Hardy, had adventured, according to promiſe, without a maſk. After looking about a while for ſome object of his gallantry, he fixed upon a lady of a very elegant ſhape and ſprightly appearance.

When they had bandied between them ſome occaſional chat, of more ſmartneſs than humour, and more wit than meaning, he called for a favourite air, and led the fair one a minuet, in which they both performed *aſſez bien.*

He now began to grow more warm in his addreſſes. If your face, Madam, ſaid he, ſhould happen to be anſwerable to the inchantments of your form, and the ſyren in your voice, I beſeech you to keep that maſk on for ever; the ſafety of mankind is intereſted in my requeſt. But ſuppoſe, ſaid ſhe, that my face ſhould happen to prove an antidote to the danger of my other charms? Then Madam, let me ſee it by all means, and make haſte, I pray you, before I am paſt remedy. I ſee, ſaid ſhe tittering, I ſee that you are already more than half a dying man; poor wretch, I pity you, and have taken it into my head to ſlay you outright, in order to put you out of pain.

So saying, she drew her mask on one side, and shewed him, indeed, a very lovely countenance. But while his flood of complimentary eloquence was just upon breaking forth, Hush, Sir, cried the lady, I will not hear a syllable, till you first return the compliment that I have paid you, and let me see what you have got under that vizard of yours. Here Hardy, in spite of impudence, stood mute with astonishment. The lady burst into a laugh; the joke was caught and spread like wild-fire; the laugh grew universal; all eyes were on poor Hardy, and a hundred tongues cried at once, Your mask, Sir, your mask, take off your mask, for the lady! This was something more than human assurance could stand. Hardy retired with precipitate confusion, and justly suffered for the presumption of his boasted facility of conquests over the fair.

Our hero had hitherto kept himself concealed, being secretly ashamed of the lustre of his apparel; but, at Mr Fenton's desire, he laid his cloak aside, and instantly, all the eyes of the assembly were upon him. In order to avoid their gaze, he advanced into the throng, where a parcel of circling females asked him a number of insignificant questions, to which he returned, in kind answers pretty nearly as insignificant.

At length a Diana approached, whose diamond crescent was of the value of a princely

ranſom. She took him careleſsly by the hand, and ſaid, Come, brother Mercury, let us give theſe mortals a ſample of what we celeſtials can perform. Lead where you pleaſe, Madam, ſaid Harry, I cannot miſs my way, while I tread in the light of ſo fair a moon.

The lady called to the orcheſtra for a ſarabánd, and all made ample room, attentive to the motions of the ſhining pair.

The dance began, and the ſpectators in a manner ſuppreſſed their breathing, for fear of giving or receiving the ſmalleſt interruption. The performers ſtepped muſic, their action was grace, and they ſeemed with difficulty retained to the floor over which they moved. They ended, and the aſſembly was ſtill mute with aſtoniſhment, till they broke out into a general murmur of praiſe.

Mr Mercury, ſaid Diana, the ſtory of Argus tells us, that you were formerly accuſtomed to ſet folk to ſleep; but, for the preſent, you have opened all eyes to obſervation. Ah, Madam, anſwered Harry, could I have gueſſed at the moon that was to ſhine this night, I ſhould have aſſumed a very different character. What character, I pray you? That of Endymion, Madam. I wiſh, ſhe whiſpered, that you were a prince, or that I were a peaſant; and ſo ſaying, ſhe turned from him, and mixed in the crowd.

Harry was next addreſſed by a ſhepherdeſs,

and again by a nun. But he declined, as honourably as he could, to tend the flock of the one, or to be the cauſe of any breach of vows in the other, obſerving to her, that ſhe had already taken the veil. The boy is a Fool, ſaid ſhe; I know it, ſaid Harry.

A gipſey then accoſted, and taking him by the hand, Will you be pleaſed, Sir, to be told your fortune? ſaid ſhe. By no means, my ſweet-voiced Caſſandra, anſwered Harry; I would avoid, above all things, prying into futurity. Knowledge, Sir, is ſurely deſirable, and above all foreknowledge. Not ſo, ſaid Harry; foreknowledge of evil would but double the miſery; and foreknowledge of good would deprive me of hope by certainty; and hope is a bleſſing, perhaps, preferable to poſſeſſion. Tell me, Sir, and tell me truly, did you ever yet ſee the girl that you could like? Yes, Madam, two or three, for whom I have conceived a very tender friendſhip, but no one yet for whom I have conceived a paſſion. Ah then, Mr Mercury, ſaid the gentle prophetess, I have only to deſire the laſt caſt of your office, when I am dead, be ſo grateful as to waft my friendly ſpirit to the ſhades of Elyſium, there to join Dido, and other unfortunate lovers.

So ſaying, ſhe turned and retired, with a ſigh that entered and ſunk into the heart of our hero.

The company now began to depart, when the

the Earl of Albemarle, coming up to Harry, took him a little apart, and throwing his arm over his ſhoulder, preſſed him to him, and ſaid, My dear fellow, you have done me ſingular honour this night; pray double the favour to me, by letting me ſee you again ſpeedily, and as often as you can. For the preſent, you muſt not go, till their Majeſties have ſpoken with you. Not to-night, ſo pleaſe your Excellency, anſwered Harry; at all other times I ſhall be ready to attend and ſerve their Majeſties without any maſk.

The next morning Mr Fenton was much ſurpriſed by a viſit from the great man. During breakfaſt, the Earl preſſed eagerly for Harry's attendance at court, and promiſed every advantage and honour that the crown could beſtow. You muſt pardon me, my Lord, ſaid Mr Fenton. I am willing to advance to you two hundred thouſand pounds more toward his Majeſty's preſent expedition againſt the French, whom I look upon to be our natural and ſalutary enemies. They are as Carthage was to Rome, they hold us in exerciſe, and keep a quarrelſome people from falling out among themſelves. Indeed, my Lord, I am deſirous of gratifying my royal maſter with any thing except the ſacrifice of my child. I cannot part with him till his education is completed; and then, if he anſwers my expectations,

I doubt

I doubt I may be more unwilling to part with him than ever.

In the afternoon our company went again to the tower, to ſee as well as to hear the recent ſtory of the great lion and the little dog.

They found the place thronged, and all were obliged to pay treble prices, on account of the unprecedented novelty of the ſhew; ſo that the keeper, in a ſhort ſpace, acquired a little fortune.

The great cage in the front was occupied by a beaſt, who, by way of pre-eminence, was called the king's lion; and while he traverſed the limits of his ſtraitened dominions, he was attended by a ſmall and very beautiful black ſpaniel, who friſked and gambolled about him, and, at times, would pretend to ſnarl and bite at him; and again the noble animal, with an air of fond complacence, would hold down his head, while the little creature licked his formidable chops. Their hiſtory, as the keeper related, was this:

It was cuſtomary for all, who were unable or unwilling to pay their ſixpence, to bring a dog or cat as an oblation to the beaſt in lieu of money to the keeper. Among others, a fellow had caught up this pretty black ſpaniel in the ſtreets, and he was accordingly thrown into the cage of the great lion. Immediately the little animal trembled and ſhivered, and crouched and threw itſelf on its back, and put forth

forth its tongue, and held up its paws, in supplicatory attitudes, as an acknowledgment of superior power, and praying for mercy. In the mean time, the lordly brute, instead of devouring it, beheld it with an eye of philosophic inspection. He turned it over with one paw, and then turned it with the other; and smelled to it, and seemed desirous of courting a further acquaintance.

The keeper, on seeing this, brought a large mess of his own family-dinner; but the lion kept aloof, and refused to eat, keeping his eye on the dog, and inviting him as it were to be his taster. At length, the little animal's fears being something abated, and his appetite quickened by the smell of the victuals, he approached slowly, and, with trembling, ventured to eat. The lion then advanced gently and began to partake, and they finished their meal very lovingly together.

From this day the strictest friendship commenced between them, a friendship consisting of all possible affection and tenderness on the part of the lion, and of the utmost confidence and boldness on the part of the dog; insomuch that he would lay himself down to sleep within the fangs and under the jaws of his terrible patron.

'A gentleman who had lost the spaniel, and had advertised a reward of two guineas to the finder, at length heard of the adventure, and went

went to reclaim his dog. You see, Sir, said the keeper, it would be a great pity to part such loving friends. However, if you insist upon your property, you must even be pleased to take him yourself; it is a task that I would not engage in for five hundred guineas. The gentleman rose into great wrath, but finally chose to acquiesce, rather than have a personal dispute with the lion.

As Mr Fenton had a curiosity to see the two friends eat together, he sent for twenty pounds of beef, which was accordingly cut in pieces, and given into the cage; when immediately, the little brute, whose appetite happened to be eager at the time, was desirous of making a monopoly of the whole, and putting his paws upon the meat, and grumbling and barking, he audaciously flew in the face of the lion. But the generous creature instead of being offended by his impotent companion, started back, and seemed terrified at the fury of his attack, neither attempted to eat a bit till his favourite had tacitly given permission.

When they were both gorged, the lion stretched and turned himself, and lay down in an evident posture for repose, but this his sportive companion would not admit. He frisked, and gamboled about him, barked at him, would now scrape and tear at his head with his claws, and again seize him by the ear, and bite and pull away; while the noble beast appeared

appeared affected by no other ſentiment ſave that of pleaſure and complacence.

But let us proceed to the tragic cataſtrophe of this extraordinary ſtory; a ſtory ſtill known to many, as delivered down by tradition from father to ſon.

In about twelve months, the little ſpaniel ſickened and died, and left his loving patron the moſt deſolate of creatures. For a time, the lion did not appear to conceive otherwiſe than that his favourite was aſleep. He would continue to ſmell to him, and then would ſtir him with his noſe, and turn him over with his paw; but finding that all his efforts to awake him were vain, he would traverſe his cage from end to end at a ſwift and uneaſy pace, then ſtop and look down upon him with a fixed and drooping regard; and again lift his head on high, and open his horrible throat, and prolong a roar, as of diſtant thunder, for ſeveral minutes together.

They attempted, but in vain, to convey the carcaſe from him; he watched it perpetually, and would ſuffer nothing to touch it. The keeper then endeavoured to tempt him with variety of victuals, but he turned from all that was offered with loathing. They then put ſeveral living dogs into his cage, and theſe he inſtantly tore piecemeal, but left their members on the floor. His paſſion being thus inflamed, he would dart his fangs into the boards,

boards, and pluck away large ſplinters, and again grapple at the bars of his cage, and ſeem enraged at his reſtraint from tearing the world to pieces.

Again, as quite ſpent, he would ſtretch himſelf by the remains of his beloved aſſociate, and gather him in with his paws, and put him to his boſom: and then utter under roars of ſuch terrible melancholy as ſeemed to threaten all around, for the loſs of his little playfellow, the only friend, the only companion that he had upon earth.

For five days he thus languiſhed, and gradually declined, without taking any ſuſtenance, or admitting any comfort; till one morning, he was found dead, with his head lovingly reclined on the carcaſe of his little friend. They were both interred together, and their grave plentifully watered by the tears of the keeper, and his loudly lamenting family.—But to return.

When our company were on their way from the tower to their lodgings, Sir, ſaid Harry, what we have juſt ſeen reminds me of the opinion of my friend Peter Patience, that one who is fearleſs cannot be provoked. You ſaw how that little teaſing, petulent wretch had the inſolence to fly in the face of his benefactor, without offending or exciting in him any kind of reſentment. True, Harry, for the lion was ſenſible that his teſty companion was little and imporent,

impotent, and depended upon him, and had confidence in his clemency, and therefore he loved him with all his faults. Anger, however, in some cases, is not only allowable, but becomes a duty. The scripture says, "Be angry, but sin not." We ought to feel and fear for others; and lust, violence, and oppression of every sort, will excite the indignation of a generous and benevolent person, though he may not fear for himself.

After supper, Harry appeared to ruminate, and said, How comes it, Sir, that creatures not endued with reason or conscience, shall yet in the affections that are peculiarly called humane, exceed even most of the human species? You have seen that it was the case between the lion and little dog.

It was the opinion, my Harry, of an ancient philosopher, that God was the soul and spirit of brutes; and this he judged from observing that what we call instinct was incomparably wiser, more sagacious, and more accomplishing for attaining its ends, throughout its sphere of action, than the most perfect human reason. Now, had this philosopher, instead of saying that God was the soul of brutes, barely alledged, that he ruled and dictated within them, he would not have gone a title wide of the truth.

God, indeed, is himself the beauty and the benefit of all his works. As they cannot exist

but in him and by him, ſo his impreſſion is upon them, and his impregnation is through them.

Though the elements, and all that we know of nature and creature, have a mixture of natural and phyſical evil; God is, however, throughout, an internal, though often a hidden principle of good, and never wholly departs from his right of dominion and operation in his creatures: but is, and is alone, the beauty and beneficence, the whole glory and graciouſneſs that can poſſibly be in them.

As the apoſtle ſays, "The inviſible things of "God are made manifeſt by the things that "are ſeen." He is the ſecret and central light that kindles up the ſun, his dazzling representative; and he lives, enlightens, and comforts in the diffuſion of his beams.

His ſpirit inſpires and actuates the air, and is in it a breath of life to all his creatures. He blooms in the bloſſom, and unfolds in the roſe. He is fragrance in flowers, and flavour in fruits. He holds infinitude in the hollow of his hand, and opens his world of wonders in the minims of nature. He is the virtue of every heart that is ſoftened by a ſenſe of pity or touch of benevolence. He cooes in the turtle, and bleats in the lamb; and through the paps of the ſtern bear, and implacable tigreſs, he yields forth the milk of loving-kindneſs to their little ones. Even, my Harry,

when we hear the delicious inchantment of muſic, it is but an external ſketch, a diſtant and faint echo of thoſe ſentimental and rapturous tunings that riſe up, throughout the immenſity of our God, from eternity to eternity.

Thus all things are ſecretly pregnant with their God. And the lover of ſinners, the univerſal Redeemer, is a principle of good within them, that contends with the malignity of their lapſed ſtate. And thus, as the apoſtle ſpeaks, "All nature is in travail, and groaneth to be "delivered from the evil:" till the breath of the love of God ſhall kindle upon the final fire, out of which the new heavens and new earth ſhall come forth, as gold ſeven times refined, to ſhine for ever and ever!

Harry, agreeable to his covenant with Signor Volanti, had penned the following adverſement, and inſerted it in all the public papers, to wit:—"On Saturday next, be"tween the hours of ten and twelve in the "forenoon, the celebrated Dominico Jachimo "Tonino Volanti will take his flight from the "ſpire of Clement's ſteeple, and alight at the "diſtance of two bows ſhot, on the Strand; "and this he will perform before the eyes of "all people."

On the impatiently-expected morning, Harry took Mr Clement with him in a hackney chaiſe, and found an innumerable concourſe, as well of the gentry in their carriages, as of

the populace on foot. London had poured forth its numbers to behold this aſtoniſhing ſight. The windows were all eyes on every ſide, and the houſe-tops were hung with cluſters of people as of bees.

After Harry had ſurveyed the crowd with inward titilation, he whiſpered to Clement, and ſaid, You ſhall ſee now, what a ſudden diſcomfiture I will make of this huge army.

He then put forth his head, and ſaid to all around, Do not ye perceive, my friends, what fools we are all made, do not ye remember that this is the *firſt of April?*

He had ſcarce ſpoken the words, when they ſpread from man to man, and ſoon were muttered throughout the aſſembly. And then louder, and more loud, the *firſt of April*, the *firſt of April*, was repeated all about.

The company now began to be in motion. All heads were inſtantly withdrawn from the ate-thronged windows, and the houſe-tops began to be cleared with a ſhameful caution.

Immediately was heard the rolling of many wheels, and the laſhing of many whips, while every coachman preſſed through the crowd, impatient to deliver his honourable freight from the public ſhame. But the public now began to reliſh a joke that was ſo much againſt their betters; and in peals of laughter, and united ſhouts of triumph, they echoed and

and re-echoed after them, *April fools! April fools!*

Among others Lord Bottom had come with his friend Rakely, in an elevated phæton, of which his Lordſhip was charioteer. As they happened to bruſh cloſe by Harry's carriage, ſwearing, and puffing, and laſhing, and curſing at the crowd, Harry cried to his old enemy, You need not be in ſo violent a hurry, my Lord; perhaps you are not ſo great a FOOL as you imagine.

The fools of faſhion were ſcarce withdrawn, when a long and ſtrong rope was let down from the top of the ſteeple, to which it was faſtened at the upper end. A man then, laying hold on it below, dragged it along through the crowd, and braced it, at a great diſtance, to an iron ring that was ſtapled into a poſt, purpoſely ſunk on a level with the pavement. They then brought a large and well ſtuffed feather-bed, and fixed it under the cord where it joined the ring.

In the mean time Volanti appeared on the top of the ſteeple, and bending cautiouſly forward, and getting the cord within an iron grove that was braced to his boſom, he puſhed himſelf onward, and with a kindling rapidity, flew over the heads of the ſhouting multitude, poiſing himſelf with expanded legs and arms, as he paſſed, till he was landed, without damage, on his yielding receiver. And in the

very next papers, Harry publiſhed the following advertiſement, to wit:

"Before the firſt of April next Signor Do-
"minico Jachimo Tonino Volanti, by the help
"of canvas wings contrived for the purpoſe,
"purpoſes to fly over-ſea from Dover to Ca-
"lais, and invites all his London friends to
"come and ſee him ſet out."

Harry had now ſeen whatever London could exhibit of elegant, curious, or pleaſing; and Mr Fenton judged it time to hold up to him the melancholy reverſe of this picture; to ſhew him the *houſe of mourning*, the *end of all men*; to ſhew him the dreary ſhades and frightful paſſages of mortality which humanity ſhudders to think of, but through which human nature of neceſſity muſt go.

For this purpoſe he took him to the GENERAL HOSPITAL, where death opened all his gates, and ſhewed himſelf in all his forms. But the great poet, on this occaſion, has anticipated all deſcription:

——————Immediately a place
Before his eyes appear'd—ſad, noiſome, dark.
A lazar-houſe it ſeem'd, wherein were laid
Numbers of all diſeas'd, all maladies
Of ghaſtly ſpaſm, of racking torture, qualms
Of heart-ſick agony—all fev'rous kinds,
Convulſions, epilepſies, fierce catarrhs,
Inteſtine ſtone and ulcer; colic pangs,
Dæmonaic phrenſy, moping melancholy,

And

And moon-ſtruck madneſs; pining atrophy.
Dropſies, and aſthmas, and joint racking rheums.
Dire was the toſſing, deep the groan—Deſpair
Tended the ſick, buſieſt from couch to couch,
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delayed to ſtrike, though oft invok'd
With vows as their chief good.

MILTON.

While Mr Fenton led his pupil through groaning galleries, and the chambers of death and diſeaſe, Harry let down the leaf of his hat, and drew it over his eyes, to conceal his emotions. All that day he was ſilent, and his countenance downcaſt; and at night, he haſtened to bed, where he wept a large tribute to the mournfully-inevitable condition of man's miſerable ſtate upon earth.

The next day Mr Fenton took him to the Bethlehem hoſpital for idiots and lunatics. But when Harry beheld and contemplated objects ſo ſhocking to thought, ſo terrible to ſight; when he had contemplated, I ſay, the ruin above all ruins, human intelligence and human reaſon ſo fearfully overthrown; where the ideas of the ſoul, though diſtorted and miſplaced, are quick and all alive to horror and agony; he grew ſick and turned pale, and ſuddenly catching his uncle by the arm, Come, Sir, let us go, ſaid he, I can ſtand this no longer.

When they had reached home, and that Harry

Harry was more compoſed: Are all the miſeries, Sir, ſaid he, that we have witneſſed theſe two days, the conſequences of ſin? Even ſo, indeed, my Harry, all theſe, and thouſands more, equally pitiable and diſguſting, are the natural progeny of that wo-begetting parent. Nor are thoſe miſeries confined to hoſpitals alone; every houſe, nay every boſom, is a certain though ſecret lazar-houſe, where the ſick couch is preparing, with all the diſmal apparatus, for tears and lamentations, for agonies and death.

Since that is the caſe, Sir, who would laugh any more? Is it not like feaſting in the midſt of famine, and dancing amidſt the tombs?

All things in their ſeaſon, my dear, provided that thoſe who laugh be as though they laughed not, remembering that they muſt weep; and provided that thoſe who weep be as though they wept not, having joy in their knowledge that the faſhion of this world quickly paſſeth away.

On the following day, Mr Fenton returned to Hampſtead, leaving Harry and Mr Clement ability to indulge the benevolence of their hearts

One evening, as our companions were drinking tea in the Temple-Exchange Coffee-houſe, a man advanced in years, but of a very reſpectable appearance, got up, and addreſſed the aſſembly:

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, ſaid he, among the ſeveral hoſpitals and other charitable foundations that have done honour to the humanity of the inhabitants of this city, there is one ſtill wanting, which, as I conceive, above all others, would give diſtinction to the beneficence of its founders; it is a houſe for repenting proſtitutes, an aſylum for unhappy wretches who have no other home, to whom all doors are ſhut, to whom no haven is open, no habitation or hole for reſt, upon the face of the earth.

Moſt of them have been ſeduced from native innocence and modeſty by the arts of cruel men. Many have been deceived under promiſe and vows of marriage; ſome under the appearance of the actual ceremony, and afterwards abandoned, or turned forth to infamy by their barbarous and baſe undoers. Shall no place then be left for repentance, even to thoſe who do repent? Forbid it charity, forbid it manhood. Man is born the natural protector of the weakneſs of woman; and if he has not been able to guard her innocence from invaſion, he ought at leaſt to provide a reception for her return to virtue.

I have the plan of this charitable foundation in my pocket; and if any of you, Gentlemen, approve my propoſal, and are willing to ſubſcribe, or to ſolicit your friends to ſo beneficent a purpoſe, I requeſt your company to the tavern over the way.

Here

Here the ſpeaker walked toward the door, and was followed by Harry and Clement, and thirteen or fourteen more of the aſſembly.

When the company was ſeated round a large table, the gentleman produced his plan, with a ſummary of the rules and inſtitutes for the conduct of the houſe, which he propoſed to call the Magdalene-houſe: A plan which hath ſince been eſpouſed, and happily executed by others, without aſcribing any of the merit to the firſt projector.

As all preſent applauded the manner of the ſcheme, and intention of the charity, each of them ſubſcribed from a hundred to twenty pounds, till it came to Harry's turn, who ſubſcribed a thouſand pounds in Mr Fenton's name.

I ſuppoſe, Sir, ſaid one of the company, that your largeſt contributions will ariſe from the ladies, as the whole is intended for the benefit of the ſex. I ſhall not, anſwered the gentleman, apply to a ſingle lady on this occaſion. Not one of them will dare to contribute a penny, leſt it ſhould be thought that they partly allow in themſelves the vices that they can pardon or patronize in others. It is this that makes the caſe of the wretches, whom we are about to befriend, deplorable beyond meaſure. They are firſt betrayed by our ſex, and then driven out to irretrievable infamy and miſery by their own. For women to women are as

turkeys

turkeys to turkeys; do but caſt a little dirt upon the head of any one of them, and the reſt of the flock combine, in an inſtant, to pick out her eyes, and to tear her to pieces.

Mr Mole, a learned philoſopher, and a man of principal figure in the preſent company, then addreſſed the projector, and ſaid, If you will admit me, Sir, into partnerſhip in the conduct of your ſcheme, I will engage to levy contributions to the amount of ſome thouſands over and above the hundred I have already ſubſcribed. You are heartily welcome, Sir, replied the gentleman, either to join or take the conduct of the whole upon yourſelf, provided the good is done, I care not by what means; all my ends will be anſwered; I wiſh to be nameleſs. That is not fair neither, ſaid another of the company; you, Mr Goodville, had the trouble of contriving this buſineſs, and you ought at leaſt to have the honour, if not the conduct of your own plan.

Mr Goodville! Mr Goodville! exclaimed Clement in a ſurprize, eagerly ſtaring at him, and recollecting, as from a dream, the altered features of his quondam friend and benefactor. Pray, Sir, do you remember any thing of one Clement, a worthleſs young fellow, whom once in your goodneſs you condeſcended to patronize? Clement! Clement! cried Mr Goodville, getting up, and haſtening to him, and catching him in his arms; My dear, my dear Clement,

Clement, my man of merit and misfortunes, how rejoiced am I to find you! God be praised, God be praised, it is at length in my power to do something material for you. But come with me to another room, I have something to say to you; we will leave these gentlemen, the while, to think further of the plan that lies before them.

When Mr Goodvill and Clement had withdrawn, Mr Mole, said one of the company, you are concerned in a number of these public benefactions. Yes, Gentlemen, answered Mole, I believe there is no charitable institution of any note in London in which I am not a trustee, and to which I am not a contributer. For, though I do not set up for sanctification by faith; yet I think I may pretend to some justification by charity. Let the vulgar herd pr their priesthood for cheating them out of their senses, I give nothing to the fat impostors, or their lucrative fable; my substance is little enough for myself and the poor. Why, pray, Sir, said Harry, are you not a Christian? No indeed, Master, answered Mole, nor any man who has sense enough to think for himself. Be pleased then, cried Harry, to hand me that paper a moment; here, Sir, I dash my name and contribution from the list of the subscribers. He who denies *glory to God in the highest*, can never have *peace or good-will toward men*;

men; and ſo, Sir, you ſhall never be the almoner of a penny of my money.

You talk as you look, my dear, cried Mole; like one juſt eloped from the nurſery, where you were affrighted by tales of ghoſts and hobgoblins. I acknowledge, Gentlemen, the benefit and beauty of morality in its fulleſt extent; and had Jeſus, the Chriſtian prophet, confined himſelf to his ſyſtem of moral precepts, I think he would juſtly have been eſteemed the greateſt philoſopher and legiſlator that ever breathed. But when he, or rather his diſciples in his name, in order to enhance the authority of their miſſion, pretended to divinity in their maſter, the low-bred and ignorant wretches pulled together againſt the grain, and compounded ſuch a ſtrange medley of fighting inconſiſtencies, and ſelf-evident abſurdities, as are wholly averſive of every principle of right reaſon and common ſenſe. They taught, that God was made a man: That, in order to expiate the ſins of the world, the innocent was appointed to ſuffer for the guilty: That the ſins of all offenders were to be imputed to one who had never offended; and that the righteouſneſs of him, who had never offended, was to be imputed to criminals of the deepeſt dye: That the Creator ſubmitted himſelf to the malignity of his creatures, and that God himſelf died a ſhameful death on the croſs. And this, Gentlemen, makes ſuch a heap

of ridiculous incoherences, such contradictions in sense and terms, as exceeds even the worship of apes and serpents, leeks and onions, and the other garbage of Egypt.

You are a villain, and a thief, and a liar, cried Harry, altogether inflamed with choler. Mole, on hearing these terms of highest affront and reproach, instantly caught up a bottle, and threw it at our hero's head; but it happily missed him, and only bruised the fleshy part of the shoulder of the gentleman who sat next. Harry instantly sprung up and made at Mole, while the company rose also and attempted to interfere; but some he cast on one hand, and some on the other, and overturning such as directly opposed him, he reached Mole, and with one blow of his fist on the temple, laid him motionless along the floor. Then, looking down on his adversary, I should be sorry, said he, that the wretch would die in his present state of reprobacy; here, drawer, run quickly and bring me a surgeon. Then, returning to his place, he sat down with great composure.

After a pause he looked around; I hope, Gentlemen, said he, that none of you are hurt. Indeed I am much concerned for having, in any degree, contributed to your disturbance. But, had any of you a dear benefactor and patron, to whom you were bound beyond measure, whom you loved and honoured above

all things, could you bear to hear him defamed and vilified to your face? No certainly, answered one man; No man could bear it, cried another: But, pray, asked a third, how came you to call the gentleman a thief?—Because, replied our hero, he attempted to rob me of my whole estate. He endeavoured to thieve from me the only friend I had in the universe, the friend of my heart, the peace and rest of my bosom; my infinite treasure, my never-ending delight! the friend without whom I would not chuse to be; without whom existence would become a curse and an abhorrence unto me. Happy young creature, exclaimed an elderly gentleman, I understand you; you mean your Christ and my Christ, the friend who has already opened his early heaven within you.

By this time Mr Mole began to move; whereupon Harry rose, and putting his hand in his pocket, Here, Gentlemen, said he, is one guinea for the surgeon, and another for the reckoning. When my companion returns, be pleased to tell him I am gone to our lodgings; for I will not stay to hold further converse or altercation with that bane of society, that pest, which the rulers in darkness have commissioned to spread contagion, distemper and death among men.

Harry went early to bed, but lay restless, and much disturbed in his spirit all night. Mr

Clement had heard the particulars of our hero's behaviour, which he partly disapproved; but, as he saw him already dejected, he did not chuse to expostulate with him for the present.

The next day they returned to Hampstead, where Mr Fenton, notwithstanding the constrained smiles of his Harry, observed an unusual cloud and uneasiness in his countenance. I want to speak with you, my love, said he; and beckoning him into his closet, he took him affectionately by the hand, and made him sit beside him. What is the matter, my dear, said he, looking concernedly in his face: what is it that has disturbed the peace of the bosom of my beloved?

Ah! Sir, cried Harry, I am indeed very unhappy. I doubt that I am partly losing my faith, and the fear of that has given me inexpressible horror. It is like tearing me from a fort, out of which there is no home or refuge for me in the universe.

Here Harry made a recital of the late affair to his patron, and having closed his narrative, Is not this very wonderful, Sir, said he, how or where in the world could this Mole have mustered together such arguments against reason, such appearances against truth! How must the vulgar and illiterate be staggered by such objections, when even I, who have been bred, as I may say, at the feet of Gamaliel,

ſiel, have not been able to anſwer them, otherwiſe than by the chaſtiſement which the blaſphemer received at my hand?

Here Mr Fenton ſmiled, and ſaid, Do not be alarmed, my love. We ſhall quickly diſpel the thin miſts of infidelity that were collected to ſhut the Sun of righteouſneſs from your eye. I confeſs, indeed, that this ſpawn of Antichriſt has compiled a ſummary of all that has ever been uttered againſt "the Lamb "who was ſlain from the foundation of the "world;" yet he is but a Mole in nature as well as name; and he with his brother-moles, know no more, and ſee no further, than the little heap of dirt and rubbiſh, that the working of their own purblind and floundering reaſon hath caſt about them.

Sacred depths and ſtupendous myſteries belong to this matter, and when you are able to bear them, they ſhall be clearly and fully unfolded to you, my Harry: in the mean ſpace, a few ſimple obſervations will ſuffice to re-eſtabliſh the peace of your ſweet and pious heart.

As Chriſtianity was inſtituted for the ſalvation of the vulgar, the principal truths thereof are very obvious and plain, and want no learning, no letters, to inculcate or teach them. They ſpeak the language of nature, and all nature is expreſſive of the ſenſe and the ſound thereof. Whatever is within you, whatever is without

without you, cries aloud for a Saviour. For sin hath been as the Mezentius, of whom you read in Virgil, who bound the bodies of the dead to the persons of the living. Thus it is that the sin of fallen angels, and of fallen man, hath bound change and corruption, distemperature and death to the elements, to the vegetables, to animals, and even to the immortal image of God himself in the humanity; so that all things cry out with the apostle St Paul, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this "death?" So that all things cry out with the apostle St Peter, "Save, Lord, or I perish!"

These are inevitable truths, my Harry, which all men, at some time, must feel throughout their existence, whether they read them or not. And he alone, who never experienced nor never shall experience frailty, error, or sickness, pain, anguish, or dissolution, is exempt from our solar system of salvation from sin.

But what sort of a Saviour is it, for whom all things cry so loudly? Is it a dry moralist, a legislator of bare and external precepts, such as your mole philosopher required our Christ to be? No, my darling, no. The influence and existence of the Redeemer of nature must, at least, be as extensive as nature herself.

Things are defiled and corrupted throughout; they are distempered and devoted to death from the inmost essence of their being; and

and nothing, under him, in whom they live, and move, and have their being, can redeem them, can reſtore them.

O Sir, exclaimed Harry, his countenance brightening up, why could I not think of this? I ſhould then have been able to foil my malignant adverſary, even at his own weapons.

Our Jeſus himſelf, continued Mr Fenton, appeals to the truth I have told you, where he ſays to the ſick of the palſy, Son, be of good cheer, thy ſins are forgiven thee. But, when the Phariſees thereupon concluded that he blaſphemed, he demonſtrated his influence in and over the ſoul by the ſenſible evidence of his operation and influence in and over the body. What reaſon ye in your hearts? ſaid Jeſus; whether is it eaſier to ſay, Thy ſins be forgiven thee, or to ſay, Riſe up and walk? Then ſaid he to the ſick of the palſy, Ariſe and take up thy couch, and go to thine houſe. And immediately he roſe up before them, and took up that whereon he had been carried, and departed to his own houſe, glorifying God.

Here it was neceſſary, for the performance of this wonderful and inſtantaneous cure, that Jeſus ſhould inſtantly operate in and through every member, nerve, and fibre, of the ſick of the palſy. And it was equally neceſſary, for that purpoſe, that the ſick of the palſy ſhould have lived, and have had his being in Jeſus. In like manner alſo, his ſins muſt have been pardoned,

ed, by an inward ſalvation, by imparting to the will of the ſinner a new and rectified will, and by informing his ſpirit with a deteſtation of evil, and a love of goodneſs and virtue.

But, pray, Sir, if it is not too profound a myſtery for me, be pleaſed to inform me, how God could be made man? for this was one of the principal objections of Mole.

God was never made man, my Harry. God cannot be debaſed. He could not degrade himſelf by any change into manhood, though he could exalt and aſſume humanity into God. Neither could God die or ſuffer. To this, Chriſt himſelf, who was God and man, bears teſtimony; where he cries out, in the agonies of his ſuffering humanity, "My God, my God, "why haſt thou forſaken me?" And again, where, crying with a loud voice, he ſaid, "Father, into thy hands I commend my ſpirit." —But you are leading me ſomething deeper than I chuſe to go, for the preſent.

From eternity, God ſaw that, ſhould he produce any creatures in his own image, to be glorious by his likeneſs, and happy by his communication, he muſt of neceſſity create them intelligent and free; and that conſequently as creatures, they muſt be finite; and that, as creatures who were free, they ſhould alſo be fallible.

He therefore ſaw that all might fall, and he alſo foreſaw that ſome would fall. But his

graciouſneſs

graciouſneſs had provided *two infallible remedies* for this evil of fallibility. He had provided a *Saviour*, and he had alſo provided *ſuffering*. The *Saviour* was to reſtore them by an inward redemption, by a reinfuſion and new birth of his own nature in their eſſence. And *ſuffering* was to prepare and open his way, by humbling their pride, by mortifying their luſt, and thus compelling them to unfold their hearts to their own happineſs.

Indeed, had no creature ever fallen, God could not have been duly glorified to all eternity. Millions of his infinitely amiable qualities muſt have lain an inſcrutable ſecret to worlds upon worlds. While all his creatures were happy in him, and participated of him, no diſtinction could be duly made between them and their Creator. Had evil never been, goodneſs would have ſunk unſpeakably in the ſenſe of its value, which is now infinitely heightened and glorified by the contraſt. Free grace and free mercy on the part of our God, and penitence and thankſgiving on the part of humbled ſinners, would have been prevented of their thouſand endearing connections. And all the amities and charities, throughout the brotherhood of man; all the melting and fond relations, which the vine Chriſt infuſes throughout his ingrafted branches, bearing bloſſoms and fruits of divine fragrance and

flavour,

ſtavour, muſt ever have remained, unbleſſing and as dead, from eternity to eternity.

But our God, my child, is as powerful as he is gracious and wiſe, to bring light out of darkneſs, and life out of death, and infinite and ever-enduring good out of the limited and ſhort ſtate of tranſitory evil.

To prove that no being beneath himſelf could ſtand of their own ſufficiency, God permitted his two principal creatures, the moſt immediate and moſt glorious repreſentatives of his divine perfections, to fall off from their allegiance, and conſequently from their happineſs, with all their progeny. The firſt was the angel Lucifer who fell through *pride*, and the ſecond was the man Adam who fell through *luſt*. Theſe two capital ſins of *pride* and of *luſt* are the genuine parents of all moral and natural evil, of all the guilt or miſery that ever did or ever can riſe throughout duration; and our heavenly Father, in his love, hath appointed intenſe ſuffering, to abate and abaſe the *one*, to mortify and ſlay the *other*, that tranſgreſſors may finally be capable of his mercy, through the ſalvation and grace of his Chriſt.

The firſt of theſe arch-felons deemed himſelf worthy of Deity, and being unexperienced in the power with whom he had to contend, he attempted to arrogate all worſhip to himſelf, and to rob his divine Benefactor of glory and Godhead.

The

The ſecond of theſe felons was tempted by the firſt to aſpire, through his own merits, at a god-like independence; to caſt off his allegiance to the Author of his being; and to expect intelligence and knowledge from the ſenſual fruits of this world, after which he luſted. He accordingly took and eat of the tree that was pregnant with all the goods and all the evils of this external, elementary, and tranſient ſyſtem; "according to his faith, it "was done unto him;" according to his luſt his deſire was accompliſhed; his nature became a partaker of temporary nature; and he fell with his progeny, into all the depravity and evils that the ſin of fallen Lucifer had introduced into theſe vaſt regions, now made more exceedingly corrupt and ſinful by the ſin of fallen Adam.

Why, pray, Sir, demanded Harry, had Lucifer any concern in this world, before the fall of our firſt parents?

Yes, my dear; all the ſpace that is now occupied by this earth, and theſe elements, with the ſun, moon, and ſtars, to an inconceivable extent, was once the heaven and dominion of Lucifer and his angels. But when, by their apoſtaſy from the light, and love, and goodneſs of God, they had cauſed darkneſs and malignity, envy, rage, and uproar, and every ſpecies of evil and horror, to be predominant throughout their kingdom; God determined,

by

by a new creation, to take it out of their hands. Accordingly, he compacted it into the present syſtem of temporary nature, whoſe duration is to be meaſured by the revolution of our luminaries, until the appointed period of the great conſummation, when all the malignity that remains and is compacted therein, ſhall be finally done away.

To this truth Moſes bears teſtimony, where he tells you, that, at the commencement of the creation, darkneſs was upon the face of the great deep. And again, where he tells you, that the tree of the knowledge of the goods and evils of this world ſprung up, even in the midſt of the paradiſe of God. But it is altogether impious and blaſphemous to ſuppoſe, that God would create evil, or infuſe a tendency thereto into any of his works. Again, the ſame truth is atteſted by many paſſages of the ſacred writings, where Lucifer, or Satan, tells Chriſt, to his face, that this world, with all its glories, are his portion and property; that they were delivered unto him; and that he giveth them to whomſoever he will. And again, where Chriſt calls him, "the prince of "the air;" and again where he ſays, "the "prince of this world cometh, and hath no "part in me."

Now, when God, by this new creation, had delivered this ſyſtem of things from the influence and dominion of evil ſpirits, they became

came altogether prisoners in their own darkness But when Adam, the second lord of this vast domain, by a second apostasy, had brought additional sin and evil into temporary nature, the paradise of God, that was over all, vanished; and the new guilt of Adam opened a new and wide gate, for the re-admission of Lucifer into his ancient possessions. And he remains a prince and a ruler in the elements and hearts of men unto this evil day.

These two capital apostates, Lucifer and Adam, who had thus robbed their kind God of their affections and allegiance, were thereafter represented by the two thieves who suffered in company with Christ, who reached out to each of them a bleeding arm of his mercy. The one accepted his grace, and on that day entered paradise along with his Lord. The other rejected *the Christ* with contempt and reproach, and therefore, if ever reclaimable, must be constrained, by suffering, to open his heart to redemption; when, after a process of many agonising ages, blaspheming and indignantly spurning at the power of his punisher, he may be compelled to cry out, O seed of the woman! heal, heal the head thou hast crushed, and admit me also, though last, to some, the least portion of thy pardoning salvation!

These two, my Harry, even Lucifer and A-

dam, were alſo the thieves among whom the traveller fell, going from Jeruſalem to Jericho from the city and place of peace to the place of deſtruction. He repreſented the wretched race of fallen man, whom Lucifer, and their firſt father, had robbed of all their ſubſtance and ſtripped of their robe of righteouſneſs, and wounded and left half dead in treſpaſſes and ſins. Neither did the law or the prieſthood avail any thing for their cure, till JESUS, the GOOD SAMARITAN, had compaſſion upon them, and bound up their wounds, pouring therein the oil of his grace and the wine of his gladneſs; and expended two pence, even the two precious pence of his own body and blood for perfecting their recovery.

But, my deareſt Sir, ſaid Harry, if my queſtion does not intrude, pray, how was it conſiſtent with juſtice that the ſufferings of the innocent ſhould atone both for, and inſtead of the guilty? For this alſo was one of Mole's cardinal objections.

Your queſtion, ſaid Mr Fenton, falls aptly in its place. When Adam, as I have told you, apoſtatiſed from his God, and luſted after the groſs and ſenſual fruits of this world, and fed upon them, and thereupon became a partaker of their nature and malignity; he fell from his paradiſe and ſovereignty together, and he became a poor ſubject, and miſerable ſlave, to all the evils and inclemencies of that temporal nature

nature, over which he had been conſtituted a throned lord and controller.

Here was a deep and a woful fall, my Harry, from ſovereignty to ſlavery, from eternity into time, from immortality into corruption, from bliſs into miſery, and from life into death! The very ſtate in which the wretched heirs of fallen nature find themſelves at this day. How then was he to riſe, if ever to riſe again? Could this be effected by any powers of his own? If he did not ſtand in the ſtate of his ſtrength, how ſhall he recover and be able to re-aſcend in the ſtate of his weakneſs? How think you, my Harry? A ſelf evident impoſſibility, anſwered Harry.

Here then, continued Mr Fenton, we find the univerſe of man depraved, fallen and ſunk into the darkneſs of ſin and error, into the dungeon of groſs and corruptible fleſh, and circled about and cloſed in by the barriers and gates of death. And theſe priſons were to be broken through, theſe gates were to be burſt open, before he could re-enter upon light and immortality. All the enemies who had conquered man, *ſin*, *Satan*, and *temptation*, were alſo to be conquered.

But how was this to be done? A world lay at ſtake, and the great queſtion was, Whether the whole race of man ſhould continue in endleſs guilt and miſery, or be reſtored to ever-enduring purity and bleſſedneſs? Where-

fore, what all the powers of creation were not able to attempt, Jesus, in the humanity, undertook to accomplish.

Here you see, my child, that justice had little to do in the case. It was not the *justice of punishment*, but the *mercy of deliverance*, that the love of our heavenly Father required. Justice indeed affirmed, that suffering was due to sin, and was the necessary attendant and consequence thereof; and this also the love of our Christ willingly took upon himself. He conquered *suffering* through *sufferings*, and was thereby made the perfect and accomplished Captain of our salvation. He entered into our flesh, he went through all the passages of this vale of tears and region of mortality into which we are fallen; through poverty, contempt, rejection, reproach; through all that the rage and rancour of men and devils could inflict, his bloody sweat, and horrors of hell, bonds, buffetings, spittings, scourgings, the bloody mockery of a thorny crown, and all the soul-rending tortures of an agonising crucifixion, till at last he triumphantly cried, "It is finish-"ed!" and gave up the ghost. From the cross he descended into the grave; from the grave again he rose in glory, and ascended into heaven, where he led captivity captive, and shewed the powers of darkness bound; that he might lead all the followers of his beatific cross in his own divine process, to conquest through

sufferings,

ſufferings, to glory through abaſement, to exaltation through humiliation, through death into life, and through the calamities of time to a never-ending, ever-bleſſing, ever-joyful, eternity!

But, Sir, ſaid Harry, was the humanity of our bleſſed Saviour the ſame as ours is? for ſo the ſcripture ſeems to intimate, where it ſays, "he was made man, like unto us in all things, "ſin only excepted."

This was only ſpoken, anſwered Mr Fenton, with reſpect to his outward humanity. His creaturely ſoul indeed, and the fleſh which he derived from his mortal mother, were even as ours are, ſin only excepted. But theſe were only as the huſk or caſe of his internal and divine humanity, which was conceived from the eſſence of the FATHER, by the operation of the HOLY SPIRIT, in the womb of a pure virgin. It was this humanity to which JESUS was intimately united, and that became one with the ever-bleſſed TRINITY. And it was of the ubiquity of this humanity that Chriſt ſpeaketh, when he ſays to Nicodemus, "No man hath "aſcended up to heaven, but he that came "down from heaven, even the Son of man "which is in heaven." But, when the external humanity of Jeſus was, by ſufferings and death, prepared to be ſwallowed up in glory, the whole CHRIST was then aſſumed up into Godhead. He ſaw all things in Jeſus, as they

were and ſhall be from eternity to eternity. And, though the glory of his perſonal appearance may be viſible in certain places, yet he is inviſibly preſent in all places and in all hearts, begetting in them a new birth of his own divine humanity; that their bodies may alſo be faſhioned like unto his glorious body; and that, when our corruptible ſhall have put on incorruption, and when that our mortal ſhall have put on immortality, "we all may be "made one, as he is in the Father, and the "Father in him, that we alſo may be one in "them." An elevation, ſure, well worth the hardeſt ſtriving, the higheſt ambition.

Thus I have ſhewn you, my Harry, the inevitable neceſſity of the ſufferings of our innocent Chriſt for the ſalvation of guilty ſinners. And this alſo ſhews you, the equal neceſſity of his taking upon himſelf the external imputation of the ſins for which he ſuffered! that he might thereby be inwardly imputed to us, and become to us, and in us, the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS; and be to us a better Adam, a ſecond and divine father, regenerating us to a birth of his own heavenly nature. And thus, as the firſt Adam died unto God, and lived to fallen nature, there was a neceſſity that Chriſt, as well in his own perſon, as his redeemed progeny, ſhould die to the fallen nature, that through him they might live again unto God.

I thank you, thank you, Sir, cried Harry.

I ſhall

I ſhall henceforth be enabled to give an account, to all who aſk, of the faith that is in me. But, pray, did the divine humanity of our Chriſt ſuffer in the crucifixion.

I believe it did, Harry, even as our ſouls are found to ſuffer in our bodies, though of a nature ſo very different from them. It was the ſuffering of this divine humanity that cauſed ſuch violent repugnance and convulſions in nature; that ſhut up the world from light even at mid day; that rent the rocks; that opened the graves, and gave up the dead to attend their Lord, and revive in the life of his reſurrection.

Will you be pleaſed, Sir, to indulge me in one queſtion more? Could not God, in his omnipotence, have effected the ſalvation of man by ſome other means than the ſuffering of our dear Chriſt? I think, were it to be done again, I would rather forfeit my ſalvation, than that he ſhould endure ſuch agony on my account.

I will not pretend, my Harry, to give limits or directions to the meaſures of my God, neither to ſay what he might or might not do within his own world, and with regard to his own creatures. But it is certain that he choſe the moſt effectual method for compaſſing his great and eternal purpoſe that infinite love could dictate, infinite wiſdom contrive, and infinite power execute. O my Harry, how unutterably

utterably endeared muſt this meaſure make our God to the univerſe of his creatures, and that to all eternity! it is herein that the nature of our God is revealed: it is hereby alone that he could ever have been duly known; known to be the God of love, to be nothing but love, in this his wonderful work of mercy, tranſcending mercy; and of grace, tranſcending grace, that he might bring us to glory; tranſcending glory.

In this ſtupendous work of redemption, I ſay, Jeſus makes himſelf as it were little, that we may become great; he ſtoops into manhood, that he may exalt us into God. He came not arrayed in the fool's coat of the luſtre of this deſpicable world, nor in the weakneſs of its power, nor in the meanneſs of its dignity; but over his immenſity he threw the appearance of limitation, and with time he inveſted his eternity; and his omnipotence put on frailty; and his ſupremacy put on ſubjection; and with the veil of mortality, he ſhrouded his beauty, that he might become familiar to us, that we might behold and converſe with him face to face, as man converſes with man, and grows fond of his fellow.

Before the incarnation, God was feared in his thunders, and adored in the majeſty and magnificence of his works. But it is in the meek and lowly Jeſus that he becomes the object of affection; in the bleeding, the ſuffering,

ing, the dying Jesus, we behold him with weeping gratitude, we love him with a love of passion and burning, a love that languishes for him, that cannot bear to exist without him.

How could that perverse people shut their eyes to the divinity of their gracious Messiah, while he gave such hourly and ocular proofs of the power and extent of his Godhead in and over all things? while he went about doing good, carrying healing in his breath, in his touch, in his garments; while the lame sprung up as a bounding roe at his bidding; while the tempest heard his voice and was still, and the sea spread itself as a carpet beneath the foot of its Creator; while the deaf ear was opened, and the dumb tongue loosed to utterance; while he poured the beams of his light upon the new-opening eyes of the blind-born gazer; and while in death, and amidst the tombs, his word was life and resurrection.

Thus, my Harry, you find yourself united to your Saviour by many endearing and intimate connections; by creation, by redemption, by brotherhood, by fatherhood, in the flesh, in the spirit; by his being bone of your bone, and spirit of your spirit; by being the "first-"born of many brethren," and by being the divine father of a new and celestial progeny.

But what need we further? the world, from the beginning, is fraught with him, and speaks

of

of him. The world is, in itſelf, no other than a hiſtory of the two capital and eternally important truths, The greatneſs of the fall in *Lucifer* and *Adam*, and the greatneſs of the redemption in *Jeſus Chriſt*. Theſe truths are engraven in the rocks as deep as the centre; they are written on both ſides of every leaf in nature. All that is within us, all that is without us, utters forth the ſame language, proclaims the ſame tidings aloud. All ceremonials, all inſtitutions of divine authority, all ancient predictions and prophecies, were pregnant with, and in travail of the great deliverance to be atchieved by the *Shiloh* who was to come. They give us a previous hiſtory of his whole proceſs upon earth, from his birth to his reſurrection, as circumſtantially, as minutely as though it were a bare tranſcript of what had recently paſſed before their eyes. But I ſhall only dwell a minute on three principal articles, firſt, that Meſſiah was to be God;—ſecondly, that he was however to be a ſuffering Meſſiah;—and thirdly, that he was to give himſelf to death for the ſalvation of ſinners.

Firſt, With reſpect to his Divinity, Daniel ſays, "I ſaw in the night-viſions, and behold, "one like unto the Son of Man came with "the clouds of heaven, and came to the An-"cient of Days, and they brought him near "before him. And there was given him do-"minion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all "people,

" people, nations, and languages ſhould ſerve " him; his dominion is an everlaſting domi- " nion, which ſhall not paſs away." Again Iſaiah: " Behold, a virgin ſhall conceive, and " bear a ſon. For unto us a child is born, un- " to us a ſon is given, and the government " ſhall be upon his ſhoulder; and his name " ſhall be called Wonderful, Counſellor, The " Mighty God, The Everlaſting Father, The " Prince of Peace. Of the increaſe of his Go- " vernment and Peace there ſhall be no end, " upon the throne of David, and upon his " kingdom to order it, and to eſtabliſh it, with " judgment and with juſtice, from henceforth " even for ever."

Secondly, With reſpect to his character of rejection and ſuffering: " Who hath believed " our report? and to whom is the arm of the " Lord revealed? He is deſpiſed and rejected " of men, a man of ſorrows and acquainted " with grief: and we hid as it were our faces " from him; he was deſpiſed, and we eſteem- " ed him not. He was oppreſſed, and he was " afflicted: he is brought as a lamb to the " ſlaughter, and as a sheep before her ſhearers " is dumb, ſo opened he not his mouth. He " was taken from priſon and from judgment; " and who ſhall declare his generation? for he " was cut off out of the land of the living; " for the tranſgreſſion of my people was he " ſtricken. And he made his grave with the " wicked,

" wicked, and with the rich in his death." Iſaiah liii.—David too ſays, " Dogs have com-
" paſſed me, the aſſembly of the wicked have
" incloſed me; they pierced my hands and my
" feet. They part my garments among them,
" and caſt lots for my veſture.—But a bone of
" him ſhall not be broken.—They ſhall look
" on him whom they pierced."

Thirdly, With reſpect to his being a will-ing offering for ſin: Iſaiah ſays, in the ſame chapter; " Surely he hath borne our griefs,
" and carried our ſorrows; yet we did eſteem
" him ſtricken, ſmitten of God, and afflicted.
" But he was wounded for our tranſgreſſions,
" he was bruiſed for our iniquities; the cha-
" ſtiſement of our peace was upon him, and
" with his ſtripes we are healed. All we like
" ſheep have gone aſtray; we have turned
" every one to his own way, and the Lord
" hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Je-remiah too—.

Here Mr Fenton was interrupted. His man Frank entered, booted, and all beſpattered with dirt, and having whiſpered ſomething in his maſter's ear, Mr Fenton turned aſide his head, to hide his concern from Harry, and ſtepping to his cloſet locked himſelf in.

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

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